

Hafa Adai!

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## OPINION METER

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**Super Sherlock**  
Leave it to Robert Downey Jr. to turn Sherlock Holmes into a wise-cracking action hero.

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## Permanent residency via employment applicable to NMI'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Once federalization kicks in, adjustments to lawful permanent resident status will

be applicable to the CNMI in the same manner it is being enforced anywhere else in the United States.

This was the assurance of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in an

e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying that everyone who is eligible may apply for these changes to obtain permanent resident status on island.

"Anyone in the CNMI who is eligible

under the Immigration and Nationality Act to apply for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status—either based on family or employment—will have the

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## DHS grants 180-day delay

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

**T**hey asked for it and they got it.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano yesterday announced the June 1 start date to the federalization law will be delayed

by 180 days—the maximum amount allowed by law—until Nov. 28, 2009.

The extension means the CNMI will continue to administer its own immigration system until Nov. 28. The proposed joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which excludes the emerging Chinese and Russian markets, will also not



Napolitano

go into effect until Nov. 28. Guam's own visa program will operate until Nov. 28.

The move comes after Gov. Benigno Fitial, CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, CNMI government officials and agencies, lawmakers, and businesses asked for a delay. Guam Gov. Felix Camacho,

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**Schorr: Investor, worker rules out in 1 to 2 months**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Major business and workers groups are relieved that the start of transition to federal immigration is delayed by 180 days, but they want the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to soon publish the CNMI-only transitional worker and investor regulations.

Jeff Schorr, field representative of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, yesterday told Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and guests that these two sets of regulations will be out in "another month or two."

Homeland Security's decision to delay federalization by 180 days—from June 1, 2009 to Nov. 28, 2009—was welcome news for members of

See **SCHORR** on Page 4

**'Rydlyme purchases were divided artificially'**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The U.S. government called yesterday its first witness in the trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez—a former internal auditor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who testified that he wrote a report about finding some deviations in the purchase of thousands of gallons of chemical called Rydlyme.

Former CUC internal auditor Socnilo Villanueva testified that in his report—



Villagomez

## Man killed, four hurt in car collision 6th fatality in six-month period

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A man was killed while four others were

injured during a vehicular collision along the Dandan main road early yesterday morning. The accident was allegedly caused by a drunk driver.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogomoro said the fatality, Aniceto T. Taitano, 20, sustained a fractured skull and swelling and bleeding in the brain.

Ogomoro said Taitano was brought to

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# Local

# CUC emergency declaration extended anew

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has placed the Commonwealth utilities Corp. under a state of disaster emergency for the ninth straight month, while the head of CUC says the utility agency will more than likely remain under a state of emergency past September, when the contract for the emergency Aggreko generators ends.

Fitial first placed CUC under

a state of disaster emergency in August in order to bypass procurement regulations for the generators. Since then, the list of reasons for the emergency orders continues to grow each month, as the governor extends it for 31 more days.

The administration has said CUC would need to remain under a state of emergency as long as the Aggreko generators were being used. Under the \$6 million contract, CUC rents the

generators and pays the company \$504,000 each month for 15 additional megawatts of power. It was recently announced CUC would not extend the contract for another six months, and instead is working to rehabilitate engines at Power Plant 1 in preparation for September.

At the unveiling of the completion of two engine overhauls on Tuesday, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said the emergency or-

ders would need to continue because power is not the only issue the agency is facing now. The core issue is power production, and that is being fixed, but there are still many issues with power distribution, water and wastewater.

"This declaration is still necessary to protect the health and safety of our children, our se-

nior citizens, businesses and all other CNMI residents and visitors," Fitial said in his 10-page executive order.

As of the writing of the executive order, Fitial said four pumps are out of service at CUC water wells. There are also no backup pumps for sewage transport, and the backup generators in the wastewater

treatment plans have failed and do not function.

Moreover, the order stated that, while CUC intends to comply with requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "there is no indication that this situation will be resolved in the next month."



JAIME VERGARA

## AUTISM MONTH

Gov. Benigno Fitial signs a proclamation declaring April as Autism Awareness Month. Autism groups throughout the United States have declared April as Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a neurological disorder affecting social interaction, behaviors, and communication.

## 'Suspect in killing of Palauan man flees NMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The principal suspect in the killing of a Palauan man who was attacked in San Jose last February has fled the CNMI.

A source from a law enforcement agency disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the suspect left the island a couple of days after the victim, Lizardo N. Omisong, passed away on March 6.

The source said the suspect used to be a member of a cultural dance group, which has been performing on Saipan.

Prior to the attack, the suspect was seen drinking with some teenagers. After punching Omisong, the suspect proceeded to a party and was heard bragging about assaulting a person, the same source added.

The source said there were five to six witnesses in this case.

Last month, then acting Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jason Tarkong said that they have good leads on the suspects in the murder of Omisong.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program received tips about the suspects, said Tarkong, who is also coordinator for the Crime Stoppers Program.

Tarkong, however, stated he can't release more information as detectives were actively pursuing leads.

He said the victim was also known as Ricardo Omisong.

The victim, sources said, was known for asking money from passersby and poker and store customers in San Jose.

According to a police report, the 44-year-old Omisong was found lying on his back on the main road in front of Leo Poker in San Jose early morning of Feb. 27.

Omisong was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was in coma for major head injuries. On March 5 or six days after the attack, the victim passed away.

A witness told responding police officers that he heard screams from outside his home and when he checked, he saw the victim lying unresponsive on the roadway.

The witness saw two men running north.

The autopsy confirmed that Omisong was assaulted. Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola determined that based on the autopsy, the bruising on the left side of Omisong's face was consistent with a hard blow or punch.

Espinola also established that the injury on the back of Omisong's head was consistent with the victim falling on a hard surface.

## Environmental expo draws large student crowd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

From environment-friendly products and animal displays to interactive demonstrations on environmental protection, yesterday's Environmental Expo drew between 750 and 800 students and 20 public and private exhibitors.

"We have a bigger crowd of students this year compared to previous years and we are happy about that," Olivia Tebuteb, coordinator for the 2009 Environmental Expo, said.

The Environmental Expo kicked off the Environmental Awareness Month activities in April.

Tebuteb, of the Division of Environmental Quality, also welcomed new exhibitors this year, including Joeten Enterprises and Tan Holdings Corp., for showcasing their environment friendly products and recycling efforts.

"I have to give credit to these two new exhibitors. Joeten Enterprises had their environment-friendly cleaning solutions, and Tan Holdings had their recyclable bags and other recyclable materials, and recycling bins. Those were just some of the

environment-friendly products on display," Tebuteb said.

Ellen delos Santos, a sales and marketing representative from No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control (Saipan) Inc., said their product on display can eliminate an entire colony of termites without harming people and the environment.

Among the crowd drawers were the interactive demonstrations by DEQ, the Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Fish and Wildlife and other government agencies that have been annual participants to the exhibit.

Brooke Nevitt, an education and outreach coordinator at CRM, for example, told students of the importance of protecting coral reefs, and that the rare yellow crowned butterfly fish is found only in the Marianas.

"I learned that we should not harvest clams and we should not hurt coral reefs or they will get extinct," said 10-year-old Karen Fajardo, a 5th grader at Joshua Generation International Academy.

Another Joshua Generation International Academy fifth grader, 10-year-old Seraphina Rogoyawa, said even though

the turtles on display at the Environmental Expo were not real, she said she enjoyed looking at them. His schoolmates Amy Rose Cabanting, 8, and Gregory Miller, 11, loved the turtle displays.

Eleven-year-old John Joshua Valiente, a 5th grader, said he's amazed at the live brown tree snakes at the exhibit. "I learned how to make a trap," he said. "I also learned that each bird is unique."

Fourth grader Efren Evan, 9, particularly enjoyed looking at the mounted crocodile on display.

Besides Joshua Generation International Academy, other schools that visited the Environmental Expo were San Antonio Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Mount Carmel School.

DEQ will hold a second environmental expo on April 21 at the Kagman Community Center.

Other Environmental Awareness Month activities include an islandwide cleanup on April 17, a lagoon and scuba cleanup on April 24, an essay competition, Cook-A-Rainbow, and a recycling contest.

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# Siemer: Article 12 was supposed to be temporary

Citizens for Change of Article 12 gains ground

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The lawyer who helped write Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution says the land alienation provision is discriminatory from

a legal standpoint and was foreseen as a temporary measure to protect lands at the time of drafting, boosting the Citizens for Change of Article 12's call for its abolition in 2011.

"In the legal context, this is

discrimination, and this provision was crafted as carefully as I, as a lawyer, could do to last until 2011 but everyone in the Constitutional Convention and I and Howard [Willens] and every lawyer who looked at

**DUE TO THE DELAY IN FEDERALIZATION**

## \$108M in economic loss averted, says MVA

Promotions budget for China, Russia to be restored

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The decision to delay federalizing local labor and immigration has prevented the potential economic loss of \$108 million to the CNMI, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Expressing elation over the federal government's move, Tenorio said the islands could still expect the entry this year of some 40,000 tourists from China and Russia, the two markets that may be excluded in the visa waiver program under the federalization law.

He said the 40,000 tourists reflect 95 percent of the total arrivals from the two destinations—a significant loss for the islands had the June 1 enforcement pushed through.

"Absent federalization, we projected an increase of 1.5 percent from Russia [for a total of] 9,000 Russian visitors this year and 31,000 from the China market," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

He conceded, though, that the projection could go down if airlines suspend flights from China.

The June 1 implementation of federalization was also supposed to restrict the entry of Chinese and Russian visi-

tors to the CNMI. The interim rules state that security protocols must first be established for both markets. It has been projected that it would take the Department of Homeland Security 12 to 18 months before it can establish the needed security protocols.

MVA records show that the CNMI welcomed about 27,000 Chinese visitors and about 7,000 Russians in 2008. In 2009, MVA hopes to bring in 31,000 Chinese and 9,000 Russians.

"Between now and November, MVA will continue to promote and use this opportunity to increase visitors from these two source markets," Tenorio said, adding that MVA's Marianas Tourism Task Force will closely work with DHS to seek "assistance" to continue travels from these markets.

The extension, he added, will also be used by the task force to ensure the establishment of security protocols until November to prevent an interruption in Chinese and Russian travel to the islands.

When asked if MVA is ready for federalization, Tenorio said, "This is really beyond us and hopefully Congressman [Gregorio] Sablan and Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo would continue to

encourage DHS to somehow provide us assistance."

### Intensify promotions

MVA, due to budget constraints and the projected impact of federalization, had reduced the promotions budget for China and Russia. It now plans to restore those amounts in its budget.

Initially, the agency invested \$460,000 in promotional activities for China; this was reduced to approximately \$250,000. The Russia market's budget was adjusted from less than \$100,000 to \$70,000.

Despite these reductions, Tenorio said the agency didn't stop any specific promotional programs for both markets.

The budgets for Japan and Korea remain intact, which are allocated \$1.9 million and \$1 million respectively.

MVA is allocated \$6.7 million for Fiscal Year 2009, more than a million dollars over the continuing resolution level of \$5.6 million.

"Our recommendation [to the MVA board] is to see if we can move some of the money that hasn't been distributed yet to these two source markets. We need to add or restore between now and Nov. 28," Tenorio said.

this understood that it would not last beyond 2011, likely because it would be challenged in the court and it cannot withstand constitutional analysis...," Deanne Siemer told members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Siemer supervised a team of lawyers and support personnel at the First Marianas Constitutional Convention in 1976.

Article 12 restricts the fee simple sale of CNMI real property exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent and other constitutionally qualified individuals based on certain political definitions.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period will end in 2011.

When she stood up to address the Chamber members and guests, she said, "I am Deanne Siemer, I wrote Article 12, so I can tell you that it was designed to take account of what Howard said the United States was insisting on protection for land. It was also designed to provide for the 2011 date on the theory that it would provide for three generations before people would start being cut off. It was intended to cover people until the cutoff date, and that's where you are."

She said the provision was also designed to pass a constitutional test.

"The question is discrimination without doubt, in the legal context," she added.

Members of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, chaired by Efrain F. Camacho, were



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lawyers Howard Willens and Deanne Siemer speak to members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

the guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly general membership meeting.

"The one item that we all find troubling is the inequality. It is discriminatory and unfair," said Camacho, who, along with the group's vice chair, Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangalinan, secretary Vince Seman, treasurer David Sablan and member Alex Sablan, gave examples of the effects of Article 12 on CNMI residents.

Siemer said the group pushing for the abolition of Article 12 is right about the problems that will ensue should this provision extend beyond 2011.

During the drafting of the Constitution, lawyers foresaw that Article 12 was a temporary measure to protect lands, she added.

Camacho, in his remarks, made it clear that the group is not forcing anyone to sell his or her land.

"What abolishing Article 12 will do is give everyone the complete rights to dispose of a very private matter—land—in a way one wants to do, including giving it to a loved one even if

that someone is a non-Northern Marianas descent," Camacho told businesses.

He said so long as Article 12 is in place, no one really owns any land 100 percent simply because one cannot dispose it off due to restrictions.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangalinan reiterated that the abolition of Article 12 does not put an end to local culture.

"That's only a myth," she said, adding that the persons originally designated as Northern Marianas descent were not exclusively Chamorros and Carolinians.

Many members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce voiced their support of the findings of the Citizens for Change of Article 12 that the land alienation provision is discriminatory.

The group also distributed copies of materials that talk about the brief summary, history and provisions of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. A brochure also summarizes the groups' key points in calling for the abolition of Article 12.

A child born to 100 percent Northern Marianas descent and non-NMD descent couple would be considered 50 percent NMD based on blood quantum. If this child should marry a non-NMD and they have a child, that child would be 25 percent NMD.

One more generation of marrying a non-NMD will produce a child with 12.5 percent blood quantum and that family's ability to pass on their property would be lost under the 25 percent NMD provision of Article 12.

The group said this is an unintended consequence of Article 12 and needs to be corrected.

"We can do this by voting NOT to extend Article 12," said the group.



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**DHS****From Page 1**

Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, and the Guam Legislature also voiced their desire to push back six months the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which extends the U.S. immigration system to the CNMI. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus supported a delay as well.

According to a DHS statement issued yesterday, "Under the CNRA, the Secretary of DHS has the sole authority to delay the June 1, 2009, transition date to U.S. immigration law up to 180 days, after consultation with the secretaries of Labor, Interior and State, the attorney general, and the governor of the CNMI. The Secretary has determined based upon those consultations that it is advisable to exercise that authority fully."

At a news briefing yesterday, Fitial thanked Napolitano for delaying the enactment of Public Law 110-229.

"I am very grateful to the federal government for acknowledging the serious economic concerns we have raised regarding the implementation of this sweeping new federal immigration law," the governor said.

DHS Assistant Secretary Richard Barth delivered Napolitano's decision to Bordallo and Sablan yesterday on Capitol Hill.

"As I have said before, this is not delay for the sake of delay," Sablan said in a statement. "The reason to push back the date is so that the Department of Homeland Security has enough time to do it right."

**Regulations**

As the June 1 date neared, many ques-

**SCHORR****From Page 1**

the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and the United Workers Movement NMI.

Doug Brennan, vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the delay gives businesses a breathing room to develop a business plan once these regulations are published.

"Our position paper stated that we are in favor of a delay simply because we want all the rules and regulations in front of us before this takes place. It's very difficult to develop a business plan for any of our member businesses when we don't know what the rules are going to be. What we were told was it will be U.S. immigration but there was talk about various exemptions and waivers. We'd like to see these," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune* after the Chamber's general membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with approximately 150 members.

To date, DHS has released only the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program regulations.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, said the 180-day delay was the correct decision considering the lack of time available to make "extremely difficult policy decisions."

"I frankly did not see it possible to implement Public Law 110-229 in the time frame available because DHS

tions over the implementation remained unanswered.

The delay will allow DHS to draft and release the remaining regulations relating to the law, and allow for enough time for the public to comment. The proposed Visa Waiver Program is the only regulation that has been released for public comment, and it has received opposition from many in the CNMI community. The final rule has not been released.

Regulations relating to foreign workers, investors, students and retirees have not yet been released for comment, something that Rep. Diego Benavente, the chairman of the House's Committee on U.S. and Foreign Relations, said has led to a climate of uncertainty in the Commonwealth.

"While everyone realized it will happen at some point, I think people need a little bit more time to understand and prepare for that," the representative said.

Rep. Sablan said he hopes the delay will allow Homeland Security more time to consider specific populations in the CNMI that will be greatly impacted if the regulations are not carefully written. As it is right now, some legal residents of the Commonwealth who do not have a valid U.S. visa will not be able to re-enter the CNMI if they must leave for a medical emergency or other reason. He asked DHS to create regulations allowing any legal resident to leave and re-enter without the need for a new U.S. visa. Moreover, Sablan is asking DHS to make the visa process more affordable for families with both U.S. citizen and non-U.S. citizen members.

"Visas applications are expensive and they require that families earn at least 125 percent of the federal poverty

had not completed regulations for the CNMI Transitional Worker Program. They had not completed regulations for existing CNMI foreign investor transitions, or created the new foreign investor policy. They had not established regulations for immediate relatives, and they had not established regulations regarding prevailing wage rates," Mendiola-Long said.

He said it would not have been prudent for DHS to create regulations in haste just to meet a deadline.

Mendiola-Long said the Tinian Chamber of Commerce appreciates the extension and intends to work closely, as equal stakeholders, with DHS/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the next 180 days "to ensure that policy and regulations promulgated will not bring extreme hardship on the people of the CNMI."

"One of the main objectives of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce is to ensure that future policy and regulations drafted will address issues affecting all the islands, not just Saipan," he added.

Mendiola-Long is also executive

vice president of Bridge Investment Group-CNMI, which is building a \$40 million to \$50 million casino and condominiums project on Tinian. The company halted construction at the site because of federalization.

**Impact study on Rota**

Diego M. Songao, chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, said the delay will provide an opportunity for the federal government to conduct an impact study, at least on the island of Rota as it tries to develop its casino industry.

Just like Tinian, Rota's casino in-

level," he noted in the statement, adding that he hopes Napolitano will use her authority to make the process more affordable.

"I am hopeful that now that the new Obama Administration is settling in, we will be able to get down to the nitty-gritty of writing these regulations," the congressman said. "It's been almost a year since the law was enacted. It's time that we start clearing away all the uncertainty that exists without clear regulations."

Another reason Sablan asked for a delay is because there has been no money appropriated for border controls. One of the reasons that China and Russia were recently left out of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program, Sablan noted, is that DHS believed border security was not adequate at this time.

"But this costs money. And no money has been appropriated by Congress to set up the NMI borders," he said in February. "So it makes sense for me to work in Congress to get the needed funds for fiscal year 2010 and have DHS complete the buildup of the entry points after Oct. 1, when the fiscal year begins and new money could be available."

**Lawsuit still on**

When asked if the extension would have any effect on the lawsuit the CNMI has filed against DHS and U.S. Department of Labor, Fitial said: "I don't think so. I think that this lawsuit has its own place and this extension will provide all the necessary work that needs to be done to improve the implementation and enforcement of the new immigration law."

The CNMI sued the federal agencies

**See DHS on Next Page**

dustry targets mostly Chinese tourists who, along with Russians, will not be exempt from the U.S. visa requirement.

"It will also give them time to put security measures in place to see if the CNMI-Guam visa waiver...may continue to include Chinese and Russians," Songao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, is thankful for the federalization delay, and to Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan for raising with DHS the issue of immediate relatives of Freely Associated States.

"We also like Mr. Sablan to raise other issues like those parents of U.S. citizen children with disabilities, long-term guest workers with U.S.-born children, and to give immigration status to guest workers with unpaid wages so they can stay here until they get their wages," he said.

Businessman Juan T. Guerrero, a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said businesses are thankful for the delay which he said will give them more time to make more appropriate planning.

"The delay will allow us more appropriate time to review them and come up with a solid decision to operate businesses," he said, adding that the regulations will restrict hiring of non-professional foreign workers.

But Guerrero, president of Herman's Modern Bakery, said professional categories do not include bakers, unless employers pay them the federal wage rates.

"They can qualify but it means you have to be paying U.S. standard rates and you're looking at maybe \$30,000 a year. How many employees earning \$30,000 can we hire at Herman's Bakery?" he added.

**MAN****From Page 1**

the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care Unit where he was pronounced dead at 8:40am.

Taitano is the second fatality in a vehicular accident in the CNMI this year and the sixth in the past six months. All fatal accidents happened on Saipan.

In yesterday's accident, Angel M. Palacios, 21, was found at fault and was arrested for reckless driving and driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Palacios had scratches on the face, right arm, and complained of head pain. He was treated at CHC and later released.

The three injured victims were Calvin A. Fitial, 25; Milton K. Minor, 22; and Doming Dela Cruz, 23. The three, along with Taitano, were passengers of Palacios. Fitial was on the front passenger seat while the others were seated inside the pickup truck's bed.

Ogumoro said that at 3:30am, DPS received a report of an automobile crash along Dandan's main road in front of Dandan Elementary School. Traffic officers and medics responded to the scene.

Preliminary investigation showed that a black 2008 Mazda SUV being driven by Stephen P. Limes Jr. was heading south on Dandan main road. Palacios, driving a white 1994 Toyota Hilux pickup truck, was heading north on the same road.

Palacios lost control of the pickup truck, which then swerved to the opposite lane and collided with the Mazda SUV.

At the impact, Taitano, Minor, and Dela Cruz were ejected from the truck's bed into the ground.

Fitial sustained lacerations on the forehead and complained of pain on the left thigh. He was treated at CHC and released.

Minor complained of pain on the

right foot and neck. He was also treated and released.

Dela Cruz was admitted to the hospital for further treatment and surgery due to multiple fractures and lacerations to the legs and right arm.

Limes, the driver of the Mazda SUV, was not hurt.

After conducting further investigation, traffic officers learned that Palacios had been drinking alcohol prior to the incident, Ogumoro said.

She said that Palacios agreed to a breathalyzer test and officers determined that his breath alcohol concentration was at .130 percent, above the legal limit of .08.

Traffic officers concluded that Palacios triggered the crash by causing the pickup truck to encroach on the opposite lane and collide with the Mazda SUV.

The pickup truck had extensive damage to the left side, including the front windshield. The Mazda SUV also had extensive damage to the front portion and its left side.

At the time of the accident, the weather was clear and the road surface was dry, Ogumoro said.

"Alcohol was one of the factors in this case; speed has not been ruled out," she added.

Last Jan. 20, a pedestrian died when two vehicles struck him along Beach Road in front of the Marianas High School in Susupe. The pedestrian was found at fault.

Three persons died and one was seriously injured when a car slammed into a power pole in front of Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe last Nov. 16.

Last Nov. 29, a Korean woman died and her husband was seriously injured when a car they were driving swerved along Beach Road and slammed into a concrete fence of a residential compound in Susupe-Oleai area. Police determined speed and alcohol as factors in the crash. The husband was subsequently arrested and charged.

managers and executives subject to international transfer to the U.S.

■ EB-2 is for professionals with advanced degrees or persons with exceptional ability including foreign nationals of exceptional ability in science, arts and business; and advanced degree professionals.

■ EB-3 is applicable for skilled or professional workers with bachelor's degrees, skilled workers with minimum two years training and experience, and unskilled workers.

■ EB-4 is for religious workers.

Yesterday, the Department of Homeland Security announced the delayed transition of federalization in the CNMI after consultations with various entities and concerned parties.

As a result of the decision, the existing CNMI immigration laws will continue to apply until Nov. 28, 2009. Additionally, the implementation of Customs and Border Protection's interim final rule establishing a joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, that was scheduled to begin on June 1, 2009, will also be delayed until Nov. 28, 2009, and the existing Guam visa waiver program will continue to operate until that date.

To effectuate this change, CBP plans to issue a technical amendment to the Guam-CNMI interim final rule published on Jan. 16, 2009.

This decision also delays the implementation of the exemption from the current statutory caps on the number of nonimmigrant H-1B and H-2B petitions granted yearly for employers filing H worker petitions in Guam.

The USCIS must approve an immigrant visa petition for the person wishing to immigrate, which the employer will file himself since the employer will act as the sponsor or petitioner for the applicant who wants to live and work on a permanent basis in the United States. An immigrant visa number is issued after completing the process that the applicant must go through to adjust to permanent resident status.

There are four categories for granting permanent residence to foreign nationals based upon employment:

■ EB-1 is for priority workers who are foreign nationals of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics; professors and researchers;

**DHS***From Page 4*

in September to halt the implementation of PL 110-229. A preliminary injunction seeking to stop DHS and DOL from taking over the local labor system was also filed in November. The case currently pending in U.S. District Court

Benavente said he hopes the lawsuit will be cleared so the CNMI can work with the federal agencies over the next several months.

Fitial has not been in communication with DHS about regulations, but Howard Willens, special legal counsel to the governor who is representing the CNMI in the lawsuit, said Commonwealth representatives have taken part in discussions at all levels with Homeland Security.

"There has been open and full discussions between representatives of the Commonwealth and representatives of DHS, in respect to all outstanding issues," Willens said.

One such representative is Lynn Knight, chairperson for the Commonwealth Economic Development Commission. Knight is currently stationed in Washington D.C. to work on the federalization law and other economic development issues.

"We have had numerous meetings with the Department of Homeland Security over the past two months and they are listening to the CNMI's concerns. They're also reading all of the comments that individuals have taken the time to submit on the DHS website, so it's definitely worth the time and effort to comment," Knight said in a statement.

Willens said the CNMI anticipated an extension might be granted but it was made clear in the lawsuit's briefs that that does not effect the Commonwealth's

entitlement to a preliminary injunction. Each party—the CNMI and the federal government—will probably submit a short statement about the extension, Willens said.

CNMI Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat said the 180-day extension would not impact the department. The department is pleased about the delay, but she said she is optimistic the judge will find in favor of the CNMI's preliminary injunction.

Judge Paul L. Friedman has taken the lawsuit and preliminary injunction under advisement.

Fitial said the CNMI will begin to prepare for the implementation of the federalization law once a decision on the lawsuit and preliminary injunction is announced.

"We will do what we need to do after the result of the lawsuit comes out, because we don't want to be doing something that we may not have to do after all," he said, adding that the judge is aware of the deadline and should make a decision soon.

**No benefit**

Some people said they believe the delay is simply postponing the inevitable, with no noticeable benefit to be gained.

"In our view it makes no difference come November, everyone will be right back on the same situation," said Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. "We continue to address that the entire federal immigration takeover is of national defense but everyone seems to ignore this issue. We are interested in seeing what will happen after the six months. In our view it's just aggravating the situation."

A delay wasn't expected, Wendy Doromal said in an e-mail, but unfortunately, the federal government was not ready.

Doromal, a human rights advocate who has been outspoken about her support for the law,

**ON THE NET**

- Additional information about the Transition Program and the CNRA can be found on the DHS website: [http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/programs/gc\\_1225725411526.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/programs/gc_1225725411526.shtm)
- For more information on the Guam-CNMI VWP, the interim final rule can be accessed on the CBP website at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).

said she was hoping the extension would not be granted.

"My concern is that a delay will allow more time for the anti-federalization administration to scheme and manipulate at the expense of the foreign contract workers who will continue to be under the dysfunctional local labor system," she said. "Perhaps a delay will give us more time to convince Congress to grant the foreign contract workers and foreign parents of U.S. citizen children a pathway to citizenship. That's what I will continue to work on."

**Money and jobs**

The extension means more

money coming in and more money going out for the CNMI government, which will affect both the Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010 budgets.

Six more months of the Russia and China markets could mean more than \$100 million coming into the CNMI, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Nonresident worker fees will also be coming in for six more months, an additional \$2.5 to \$3 million in revenue to the CNMI.

But both fiscal year budgets did not include appropriations for the local immigration division. The FY 2009 budget stops appropriating money

to the agency on May 31, the day before the law was to go into effect and federal employees were to take over. The FY 2010 budget proposal, which the administration was preparing to turn into the Legislature yesterday, did not include funding for the local immigration division or include the revenue that could be seen from six more months of visa-

free travel.

Fitial said the administration is making provisions to the budget.

CNMI Immigration director Melvin Grey yesterday said it is business as usual in the division. Sixty-one employees will be able to keep their jobs for another six months, but "we'll have to face it again in six months."

**Marianas High School schedule**

|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| April 6-7       | 3rd Quarter Final Exams   |
| April 8         | 4th Quarter begins        |
| April 9-13      | Easter break              |
| April 27- May 1 | SAT10 Tests (Grade 9-11)  |
| May 4-15        | Advanced Placement Exams  |
| May 18-22       | PSS SBA Tests             |
| May 25          | No classes (Memorial Day) |
| June 11         | Graduation Ceremony       |
| June 15         | End of 4th Quarter        |

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)



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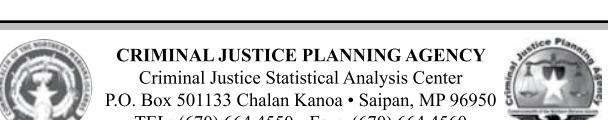
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is hereby giving notice that the CNMI Supervisory Council will hold its Special Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Judicial Court Conference Room.

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. New Business
  - Review and Approval of Byrne JAG Recovery Act Application
  - Submission to Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department Justice
- V. Old Business
- VI. Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan  
Chairperson, CJPA Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome I. Jerome  
Executive Director, CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2006-DJ-BX 0421, from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice.

# CDA approves \$22M tax breaks for Laolao owner

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board has approved to modify the qualifying certificate of the Saipan Laulau Development Inc., which will entitle the company to receive \$22 million in tax breaks if the governor approves the agency's recommendation.

From the initial \$18 million tax benefits approved in September 2008, the new QC granted an additional \$4 million for the company but the agency capped the QC application period from 25 years to just 20 years.

CDA board chair Pete Itibus disclosed yesterday that the modified QC has been transmitted to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is expected to sign the document.

"The board approved it and

is now awaiting the governor's positive action," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the island's chief executive has 45 days to act on the recommendation.

Saipan Laulau Development Inc. is an affiliate company of the Kumho Group that also owns Asiana Airlines. The conglomerate acquired the Laolao Golf Bay Resort from the United Micronesian Development Agency with the intention to build a luxurious golf resort, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Itibus said it was SLDI that asked for the changes to its qualifying certificate. CDA amended its policy to accommodate the company's request.

The company was the first to benefit under the new regulation, which states that QC modification is only available and

only applies to requests made on or after Oct. 1, 2008.

"We decided to give them \$22 million...but we reduced the years to 20. Our decision was based on consideration that the company would help boost our economy and will help increase the flights to the islands which we very much need at this time," Itibus said.

In an early interview with SLDI president Kim Yun, he revealed that the modification request was made in consideration of the increased investment for the Laolao project—from \$54 million to \$70 million.

He said one major phase of the Laolao project was the completion of the clubhouse, which costs \$50 million. Other components of the project include villas, golf tower, and a golf course.

Because of the depreciation

of the Korean won, Yun said its target completion—the end of 2009—may be affected.

Under the approved new QC, SLDI is entitled to 100 percent rebates on gross revenue tax and excise taxes in 20 years of business operation. It is required to

make contributions of not less than \$150,000 annually to health and educational programs and activities, excluding its educational tax credit donations.

CDA, in consultation with the Finance Department's Division on Revenue and Taxation, stated

that the amendments to the QC rules and regulations were formulated to restate, enhance and clarify the existing regulations and were necessary to effectively carry out the intent of the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, which created the QC program.

## CPA's interest payment suspended for three years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority on Monday approved the three-year suspension of interest payments on the \$6 million loan of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CDA board chair Pete Itibus said the decision to defer CPA's interest payments for three years was unanimously approved by the board.

Besides the interest-free option, the CDA board also agreed to allow CPA to pay its loan principal in five years.

"The board provided five years suspension of their principal loan payments but after three years they will start making payments on the interest," said Itibus.

The chairman said the decision was reached after looking over the financial situation of the agency, which is still work-

ing on its compliance with the seaport indenture agreement with trustee Bank of Guam.

"It's a big help for CPA..." he said.

The loan was used for the agency's seaport projects. Prior to this, CPA had requested CDA for debt forgiveness, which the latter opposed.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that from the original \$10 million loan made to CPA years ago, the agency incurred an outstanding balance amounting to \$6 million after it failed to pay its obligations on time.

The remaining loan, *Saipan Tribune* learned, would have cost CPA some \$68,000 in monthly payments, if no suspension is made.

Due to the more than 60 percent reduction in seaport revenues, CPA was found in default of its indenture agreement, resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency at CPA last year.

Early this year, the CPA board approved a 90-percent hike on seaport fees and activities in line with the cost-recovery measures eyed for its indenture agreement. CPA had said the increase was intended to prevent any take-over of seaport management by the trustee.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho earlier said that the suspension of payment will help CPA comply with all the indenture issues. He said CPA is in "the right direction" toward compliance, saying they are now at 90 percent nearer their goal.

Because of the progress in seaport operations, CPA's current financial position will enable it to meet its debt service coverage ratio of 1.25, Camacho said.

The new tariff rate is subject to quarterly assessment by CPA to determine if it is viable to continue its enforcement.

## RYDLYME

From Page 1

which he submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor—he had determined that contracts to purchase Rydlyme were divided artificially.

Villanueva said there was also a conflict of interest between then CUC executive director Villagomez and the Rydlyme vendor, James Santos, who is Villagomez's brother-in-law. Santos and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos, are co-defendants in the case.

Villanueva said that CUC bought thousands of gallons of the chemical but they were not used.

He reiterated this point during questioning by Victorino Torres, lawyer for James Santos, saying he stated in his report that the purchase of Rydlyme "is a waste" considering that thousands of gallons were in the storage room and were not being used for almost a year.

He said he interviewed the Rota power plant manager in August 2000, during which the manager stated they never asked for Rydlyme.

Villanueva said CUC procurement regulations require two to three quotations from vendors when a purchase is worth more than \$50,000. If the purchase is beyond \$50,000, there should be a competitive bidding process.

In an interview with two OPA investigators, he told them that

the purchases of Rydlyme were subdivided to skirt the bidding requirement, Villanueva said, responding to a question by Ramon Quichocho, Joaquina Santos' lawyer.

David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, asked if James Fejeran, who was doing the processing of all the purchases, did not say that the subdivision was done to avoid the bidding as it involved a purchase beyond the \$50,000 limit.

"Yes," Villanueva answered.

He noted that since 1998 CUC had purchased a total of \$286,000 worth of Rydlyme under a sole-source basis, yet CUC still paid for the off-island training of some CUC technical staff for the Rydlyme product.

He suggested in his report that Rydlyme should shoulder the cost of such training, considering the big business CUC is giving the company.

When asked if he interpreted the CUC procurement regulations on his own, Villanueva replied: "Based on my professional judgment."

Villanueva said he was not among the three staff sent off-island for Rydlyme training in 2000 but that the essence of his report is that CUC has already spent so much for Rydlyme, yet the training came after.

"After spending \$208,000 why only now the training?" the witness said.

Quichocho asked if it is not a violation of the Ethics Act to let a company pay for CUC staff's off-island training. Villanueva

answered that it is standard business practice. He said it was his suggestion for Rydlyme to pay for the training, considering that CUC spent so much already to buy their product. "I'm just being practical," he added.

When asked why he is testifying, Villanueva said he believes it is his duty to shed light on the issue after the U.S. government asked him to do so.

Torres asked Villanueva whether in his report he mentioned a single violation of procurement regulations committed by James Santos. Villanueva replied, "I did not imply here."

The former CUC internal auditor also agreed with Torres that James Santos never approached him (Villanueva) to not include him in the report.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Lujan was still conducting his cross-examination of Villanueva.

Meanwhile, Munson placed under advisement Villagomez's motion to dismiss the indictment.

Villagomez's counsel asserted that the conversation between the prosecutor and the grand jury were not recorded.

The Santos couple joined in the motion.

The prosecution opposed the motion. O'Malley said the colloquies were recorded, but neither transcribed nor produced.

O'Malley also stated that he ordered that transcripts be made and available for inspection should the defendants demonstrate a need for them.

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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
**NMC 2009 graduation candidates meeting**

Spring 2009 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee meeting scheduled for April 4, 2009, at the Student Support Services office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm. The meeting will feature updates on graduation, as well as a discussion on the commencement theme, choices for the keynote speaker, plans for the commencement banquet and other aspects of the graduation. For more information, please contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr. at 234-5498 ext. 1021, or jackk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are urged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

**Attention to MHS 9th grader**

A reminder to all Marianas High School incoming Freshmen (9th grader): Make sure to verify with the MHS Registrar (237-3205) that you are registered for classes for school year 2008-2009. You have to provide a new blue health card to MHS for new school year. Deadline for submission of new blue health card from Department of Public Health is Tuesday, Sept. 2. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

**NMC alumni get-together**

The NMC Alumni Association is inviting all NMC alumni to the first ever "NMC Alumni Reunion Barbecue Bash" to be held on Managaha on April 4, 2009. There will be food, fun, drinks, and games. Interested alumni can log on to www.nmcnet.edu and register on the alumni page. Alumni membership cards are now available and include discounts to businesses and access to NMC facilities. Come and hang out with former classmates from NMC. Interested alumni can also email vice president Chris Cabrera at mistercabrera@yahoo.com or Laura Williams at laurawilliams7@gmail.com for more info. (PR)

**SVES registration schedule**

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for School Year 2009-2010 is scheduled to begin on April 27, 2009 from 9am-12pm, and 1-4pm in the school registrar's office.

- Kindergarten- April 27-May 01, 2009
- First through Third Grade- May 4-8, 2009
- Fourth through Six Grade- May 11-15, 2009

Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/ accidental insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended. (PR)

**Sr. Remedios registration ongoing**

Registration is now ongoing at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center for School Year 2009-2010. For more information, call 234-6247. (PR)

**BPL moves to new office**

The Board of Professional Licensing has moved its office to a new site located on Pohnpei Ct., Bldg. 1242, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. The contact numbers are 664-4808/9 and the new fax number is 664-4814. (PR)

**CARP meeting on April 8**

The Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons will hold a meeting for all retirees and all members of the Retirement Fund on April 8, 2009, at the Round House, Garapan Central Park at 6pm. Agenda for the meeting includes an update on CARP and a discussion with Retirement Fund officials on the state of the Fund and what members can do to save the local retirement system. All retirees and all members of the fund are urged to attend this critically important meeting. (PR)

**Income tax return deadline**

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that the deadline for filing of the 2008 individual Income Tax Return is Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Deadline hours for April 15, 2009 are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

**Corporate Challenge reset to May 17**

Due to some conflicting events, the 2009 Corporate Challenge of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is being rescheduled. After a meeting with the team captains for the companies that already registered, it was agreed that the event will take place on Sunday, May 17. Everything else remains the same. Register now and join the Chamber for a day of guaranteed fun and camaraderie. (PR)

**Quarterly tax return deadline**

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. (PR)

# 'Modern Micronesian teens face too much competition'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In the olden days, at least in the time of the Trust Territory government of Micronesia, young people were primarily influenced, molded, and shaped by three main factors: school, home, and church. Back then, Micronesia had a much more homogenized society and its traditional culture was more intact.

Even then, young people still got into trouble. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said teenagers would get into fights and sometimes had trouble with the law. In school, children did not always do their homework or excel at academics.

"In this modern age, we still face many of the same challenges regarding our youth population...but our modern society is much more complicated, with more diversions for young people," Fitial said, speaking at Monday's kickoff of the 5th Mi-

cronesia Youth Services Network regional conference.

Citing challenges brought by modern technology—cell phones, computers, iPods, and video games—the governor said today's teenagers are also influenced by Western and international cultures, brought about by globalization and the proliferation of mass media.

"The modern Micronesian teenager of today has so many choices and so many competing media interests. And the influences of the home, the school and the church may not be quite as strong as before. There is too much competition now," the governor said.

Yet despite these changes and challenges facing Micronesian youths, the social and policy goals for the youth remain the same, he said.

"We want to cultivate healthy, happy, creative, and productive young people to build stronger societies and communities

throughout our entire region. We want our kids to be educated and respectful of our sacred values and traditions, but we also don't want them to be left behind in our modern world," Fitial said.

These are the concerns of the regional conference, he said, to encourage everyone to share ideas and work together to support valuable services to the youth of the region, so that policy objectives might be better achieved.

## 'Sustainable communities'

To achieve strong communities for the youths, Sarah M. Thomas-Nededog, president of the Micronesian Youth Services Network, said there must be focus on each and every youth.

"The academic definition [of sustainable communities] dictates that if we want to have a sustainable community, we must address three factors: equi-

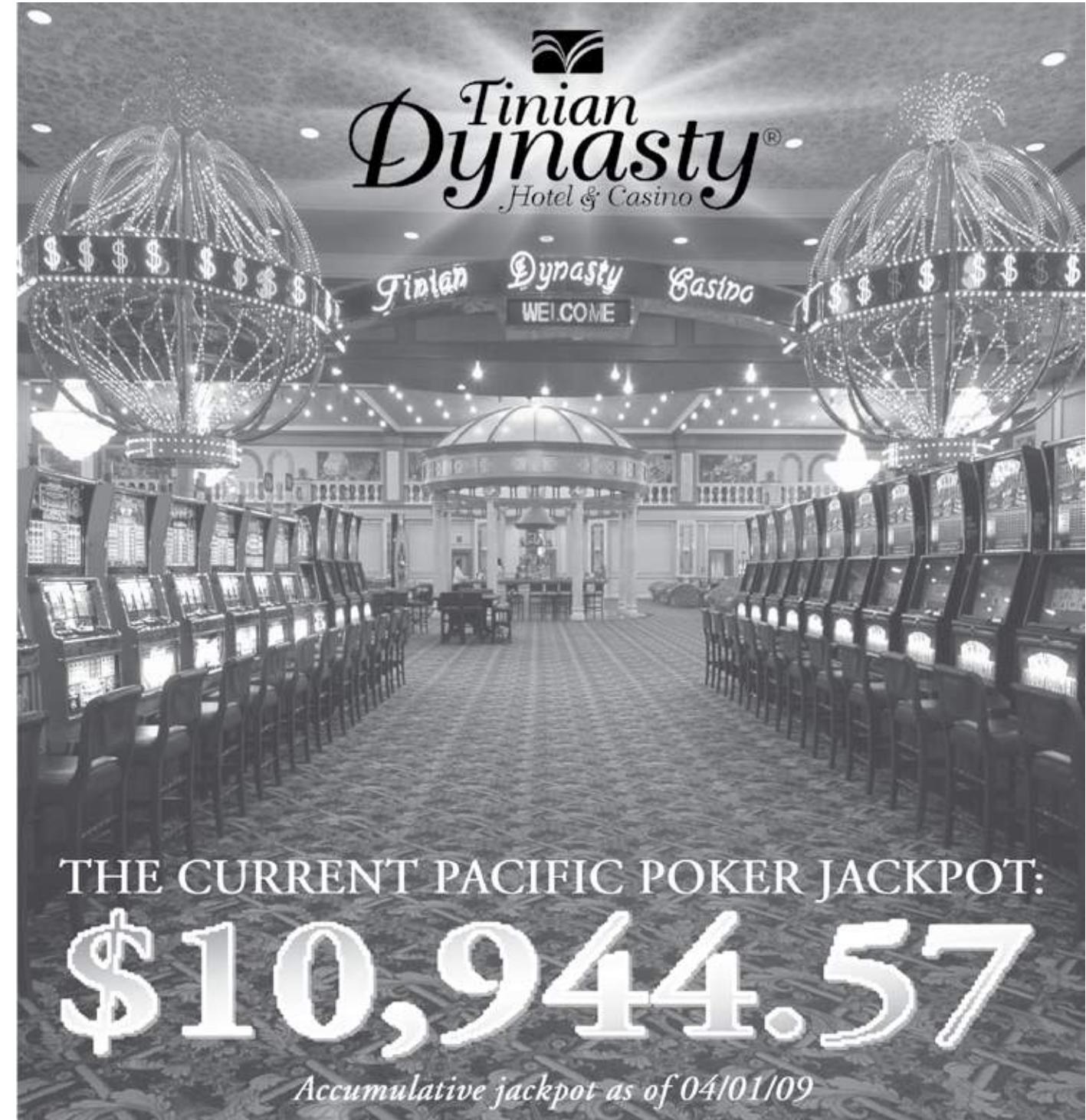
ty, environment and economics. None can be achieved without the other," she said.

Thomas-Nededog said that Micronesians are being challenged in their ability to manage lives, finances, governments and private sector.

She said a fruit of a sustainable community is the practice of equity, which averts displacement of children and youth, the homeless, persons with disabilities, homeless and the poor, as well as the hard-working middle class.

"We have people who are fearful each waking day if they will be abused or neglected. We have youth who do not wake up because they have gone to sleep fueled by some drug, which gives them reprieve from what to them is a very cruel world," she said.

She said it is the event's objective to strengthen the Micronesian communities—one youth at a time.



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**CHAMBER EVENT**

Senior students from three high schools on island take a break during Saturday's session at Kagman High School campus. Sponsored by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the event aimed to guide and prepare students after graduating from high school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Congratulations Ron and Fatima Manaloto, Marlon and Catherine Cabrera, and Mike and Cindy Briones on completing the Marriage Encounter Weekend held from March 27-29, 2009. We are so proud that you made the decision to love! Greetings coming from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Peter and Lynn Mendiola and Sim and Lani Iramk made a decision to love and it really shows on their faces when they spread their contagious love to the rest of the world. Congratulations on completing the Marriage Encounter Weekend!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY GIRL**

Special birthday greetings go out to Nevaeh DLG. Cruz, who is celebrating her birthday today, April 2, 2009. Happy Birthday "Vaeh" and many blessings from the family. We love you very much.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to our pride and joy, Kaia DJ Travilla. We love you so much. From Mama & Papa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Josephine G. Villanueva for recently passing the US CPA Board Exam. We are so proud of you and wish all the best on your future endeavors. Greetings coming from the management and staff of D&W Ent. Inc. and Wushin Corp.

**BOARD PASSER**

# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**April 2, 1999****Panel endorses bank-reform legislation**

The House Commerce and Tourism Committee has recommended immediate passage of a legislation overhauling operations of banks and other financial institutions on the island, saying these reforms will safeguard the half-a-billion dollar sector. It will also widen the scope or ownership of Commonwealth banks and simplify the administrative procedures associated with the licensing and operations, according to a committee report. "It provides for a balanced, modern regulatory scheme, one that protects depositors, while encouraging competition in the industry," it said.

**CDA eases terms on loans payback**

The Commonwealth Development Authority has taken steps to help locally-owned businesses weather the current economic crisis through flexible loan repayment terms and other assistance aimed at easing financial burden on their borrowers. Marylou S. Ada, executive director of the chief government lending agency, said these measures have been put in place even before a request for assistance from lawmakers came. "There is no need for that because we have been doing that ever since CDA was created," she told in an interview, responding to a recent House resolution asking the agency to refinance loan agreements granted to CNMI residents.

**April 2, 2001****Harsher penalties against child rights violators eyed**

The CNMI government on Friday stressed the need to expedite approval of the proposed changes to the existing anti-child abuse law, in hopes to prevent the increasing cases of child rights violation in the Commonwealth. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio underscored the need for immediate changes to the existing law Friday after he officially designated April as the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. In an interview with reporters, the governor disclosed moves to give the existing law additional teeth in order to discourage people from committing crimes against the children. He said changes to the law should include stiffer penalties against child rights violators.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**ENVIRONMENT MONTH**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs a proclamation declaring April as CNMI Environmental Awareness Month and April 22 as CNMI Earth Day while Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong looks on during a ceremony on Capitol Hill yesterday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NEW GRADUATE**

Congratulations to Airman Anthony "AJ" C. Dela Cruz, who graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas on March 20, 2009. He is now at tech school in Lackland. Witnessing his graduation is cousin Mark C. Villagomez of San Diego, California, and mom. Best wishes and good luck on your endeavors. Aim high!

**Continental looks at 8 new markets for CNMI**

Continental Airlines is reviewing possible deployment of non-stop flights out of eight emerging markets primarily spurred by the slow recovery of the Japanese economy from deep financial upheavals. This, as Continental Airlines yesterday launched its Saipan-Nagoya direct flights with 155 passengers onboard including 10 individuals representing different media entities in Japan. Continental previously abandoned the route due to low demand from the Japanese tourism market. It has consistently said that deployment of flights depends heavily on market demand. Continental Micronesia Staff Vice President for Sales and Promotions Walter Dias said the resumption of direct flights mirrors the increasing demand from the travel market in Japan, as well as the country's recovering economy.

**April 2, 2002****Chamber backs Farallon bombing**

Saying that a pullout by the military from the CNMI would be disastrous to its already ailing economy, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday took the cudgels in defense of the U.S. Navy's bombing practices on Farallon de Mendinilla. This, as the Navy plans to appeal an adverse decision of a federal court in connection with the military exercises on the island. Mike Schadeck, Chamber's Armed Forces Committee chair, disclosed that the court case filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Defense Department may still take a long time, since the military would appeal the summary judgment rendered by U.S. District Court Judge Emmett J. Sullivan.

**CPA scrambles to meet obligations**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's revenue from Fiscal Year 2001 to the first five months of the current financial year fell short of the original projection to merit a full coverage of the agency's existing financial obligations. This prodded CPA officials to explore the possibility of restructuring payment of loans obtained from the Commonwealth Development Authority. Ports officials will also revisit its revised budget for FY2002 and look into alternative revenue sources, as well as streamline operational costs and other recommendations that would assist the CPA meet its obligations to the Franklin Fund.

**JOETEN  
60th  
ANNIVERSARY**

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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Obama's war

In unveiling his policy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, President Obama asked a question central to any foreign military engagement, yet one that was never clearly answered in Iraq: What is our purpose there?

Our goal, he went on to explain, is to defeat al-Qaida and other violent groups operating from a border region that has become "the most dangerous place in the world" for Americans. In other words, the mission is to protect U.S. national security, not to turn Afghanistan into the country we'd like it to be.

Obama is right to shine the presidential spotlight on Afghanistan—and away from Iraq. He outlined a counterinsurgency strategy that is regional and pragmatic, recognizing that the U.S. cannot defeat al-Qaida and the Taliban alone, nor exclusively by military means. He noted that al-Qaida is not only hiding and training in Pakistan but attacking it too, and he sought \$1.5 billion a year in civilian economic aid for Pakistan—a request that Congress should grant.

In an important step, the president opened the door to reconciliation with those Talib who are willing to abandon violence. And at a conference on Afghanistan in The Hague Tuesday, the administration was expected to seek further development aid to help dim the appeal of extremist ideologies among the desperate poor. Besides our usual partners, the administration will look for assistance from Russia, China, India and, perhaps most important, Iran; a common enemy in al-Qaida can serve to build common ground between the U.S. and Iran.

The administration is right to narrow the goals and spread the burden. Many powers have tried to remake Afghanistan in their own image only to depart in failure; drawing on the lessons of Iraq, Obama eliminated the language of democracy-building.

Obama didn't put a price tag on the stepped-up operation, and Congress will have to demand strict oversight of funds destined for a country known for rampant corruption. Then there was the question Obama didn't answer: How will we get out? We will be listening for Obama to articulate his measures for success in Afghanistan and, with that, his exit strategy. This is Obama's war now. Let's hope it's not his Vietnam.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



### An unsatisfying closing act

Ten years after my husband, Stuart, was told he had Parkinson's disease, he began to speak less often, and what he had to say was intriguing but not always clear. He dozed off frequently, fell down the stairs of our London home and stopped eating. "He needs to be in a nursing home," I was told.

On hearing the news, my son, who's in the film business, urged me to return to Los Angeles. "I can get him into the 'motion picture home,'" he assured me.

Last year, when my English-born husband moved into the home, it was filled with light and brisk energy. A lively variety of wheelchairs whizzed by in the halls, the riders nodding to each other. In the activity rooms, residents watched TV, sat at tables and played word games or bingo or poker. They would drink tea and chat, or drowse near wide windows with views of the great mountains across the San Fernando Valley. When Stuart missed his London parks, I could wheel him out into the gardens, past the topiary trees, gazebos and camellia bushes.

The motion picture home was a prototype for what a nursing home should be. The people who worked there were as inventive in their care as the residents had once been in creating stories for the screen. They tailored their care to the needs of the residents. Stuart was helped to listen to his jazz CDs through the day. A woman who hated to see people without "her face" got made up every morning. Another got help with her wigs, including the curly ash blond one she saved for Sundays.

It all seemed perfect. And then in January, the residents and their families received letters saying the Motion Picture & Television Fund no longer could afford to keep the long-term unit of the home going. We suggested ideas, including a fundraising drive. But the decision was final. Now the residents are scrambling to make other arrangements.

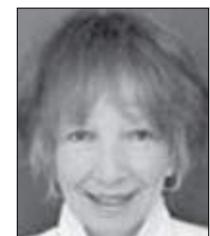
Stuart knows (usually) that he will be leaving, and he sometimes cries and grips my hands. "You may not find me tomorrow, they're taking me away. And you won't know where I am." I hold him close and try to reassure him. "I will always find you."

People are intrigued by stories about self-absorbed celebrities, driven by a quest for fame and willing to step on anyone in their way. But at its core, Hollywood always has been a place of loyalty. The actors and writers and directors, the people who are the most visible and best paid, know how much they depend on the construction artisans, stunt workers, electricians, stagehands and sound technicians. The motion picture home was a pledge on the part of the industry that all its family would be taken care of. Now that pledge has been broken.

When I speak to members of the staff, they are frightened and concerned not only for their jobs but for the people they care for. On the second floor, where Stuart is, 20 people have left; several have died. The Motion Picture & Television Fund has requested a suspension of its acute-care license from the date of final closure,

**By JILL SCHARY ROBINSON**

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Jill Schary Robinson, a journalist and author of nine books, is working on a novel about her father's first year at the helm of MGM.

which is expected to be in October. Even though no one has been given official notice, there's a sense of urgency to get people out.

One day recently, as I was running down the hall to meet Stuart, I saw that two more rooms had been emptied. A lively red-haired woman in an electric wheelchair seemed defeated. "You can't stop them. We'll all have to go. It's done."

But some residents continue to resist. A lively electrician in a wheelchair approached me during the same visit. "They can't make me leave. I paid my dues every month of my life to be here. I'm staying."

The leading lady who has the room next to Stuart packed up and left a few weeks ago. But she was soon back. Her daughter hated the new place and asked for more time. The mother was happy to be back. When I saw her soon after her return, she lifted her long neck, sat up straight in her wheelchair and tossed her white page-boy hair: "I'm not going anywhere." She has now been moved again.

Stuart likes to go down to the cafe for an ice cream bar in the middle of the afternoon. Even when it is closed, someone there always makes sure he gets his favorite Haagen-Dazs bar. On the way back to his room last week, we stopped in the lobby. A woman I know was there with her husband, Hal. During our chatting, Hal barked to his wife and to me, "Tone it down!"

Stuart liked that. As we left, he reached out and shook Hal's hand. "I like that man. Do you think he will still be here tomorrow?"

"Yes," I said. "Just ask to see Hal."

I've realized lately that for some of us, the fight is part of a larger battle. We want the story to have a happy ending, like the movies we loved. Like the movies these people made. To close the home is to turn our backs on our own futures. We will be that old. We will have infirmities. We will need care. And we will want it in a place that recognizes and attends to our talents, our quirks, our fears.

On one recent visit, my husband was sitting in the hall, watching the action, when I arrived at his side. He reached out for me. "Where have you been?" he asked. "I wrote a poem." It began:

*Life still owes me those years I've forgotten.*

*Years of life, experiences and learning and loving and loss.*

*Endgame. Joy and pain.*

*Where are those days ... first school days, kisses, books, terrors?*

*Have those days built another life/another me/another wife?*

*Another stranger?*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Starting a business

In one of my business classes, I have groups of students research different businesses so they can choose one to work on during the semester. This allows them to put theory and principles into action as we talk about the different aspects of business. Their final project is to present the business to "investors" to evaluate which group has done the most thorough job with their business project, and which business would give the best return on their investment.

It's getting more difficult to find employment, and with the threat of losing one's job, many have decided to start their own business. If you have considered starting a business, here are 10 questions you should ask as part of your research to evaluate your idea. If you can't answer too many of them with a "yes," then you may need to do some more research, or reevaluate your business concept. If you answer the questions and still feel confident in your idea, then you may have the start of a business that will create greater wealth and allow you to achieve a lifetime of fulfillment.

If you already own or manage a business, these questions may help you to make better decisions in the future so that your business provides a greater return on your investment, or becomes the dominant leader in its industry.

**1. What is the purpose of starting and building your business?** There are many reasons why people start a business. If it's to make more money, how much more do you want? If your purpose is bigger than money, how will you know when you've achieved it? Having a definite purpose before you start will help you stay focused and continue through the tough times.

**2. Will customers want what you're going to sell?** It's impor-

tant to have an outstanding product to sell; otherwise, your product will be considered a commodity item and it will be difficult to compete against existing businesses. If you're introducing a new product, it may be difficult to convince people they need it, unless you can answer the next questions positively.

**3. Do the people you plan to sell to have enough pain or frustration that you can offer a solution?** If the pain or frustration is great enough, and you can position your business and/or product so that prospects feel you have the solution, then your marketing efforts will be successful.

**4. Can you identify enough prospects to make it worth your effort financially?** You may have the greatest product that provides a needed solution, but if the market isn't big enough and there are not enough customers, you won't make enough money to stay in business.

**5. Can you reach those prospects in a cost-efficient manner?** If it's too difficult or costly to reach your prospects, then it will be difficult to make a profit. Rather than use a "shotgun" approach to reach everyone, you should have a laser-focused marketing approach that specifically targets your ideal prospects.

**6. Will your business have "limitations" that could affect your sales?** Some businesses have a limited capacity based on the number of seats available, a limit to the number of skilled workforce, difficulty getting products or raw materials, shipping difficulties, or quotas and legal restrictions. Could any of these limitations have an adverse impact on your business?

**7. Does your product allow you to charge enough so that your margins leave sufficient operating profits?** It's not just how much you sell, but for how much you sell it. If your product costs

too much to produce or buy, so that you can't charge a competitive price, then you'll need to sell a large volume or find a way to increase your prices without losing customers.

**8. Do you have a backend product or a phase two for your business so that you can capitalize on growth?** What's next after you make a sale or achieve an initial growth goal? Can you offer a second product after the initial purchase, or do you have a plan to expand, increase your market share or product offering to existing customers?

**9. If you can answer "yes" to the above questions, can you leverage the business to achieve your purpose?** This goes back to the first question to make sure your purpose can be achieved.

**10. Do you have an "exit strategy" for when you are finished with your business?** What do you eventually want to do with your business when it's complete? Do you have a plan to hold onto it until you die, have your children take it over, or sell it so you can pursue other ventures? If you can begin with the end in mind, then your end will be much easier to achieve.



## Opportunity

Recently I had occasion to be in Honolulu on job-related activities. One of the more pleasant activities included meeting with a number of our former CNMI high school students, including some of my own by the way. The students, i.e., 99 percent of them, were there going to college. Why Honolulu, Hawaii, some might wonder? The answer was less difficult to deduce than some might guess. The CNMI makes it financially possible for them to go there.

Educationally speaking, the CNMI really is the land of opportunity. If a student wants to go to college, and if he or she is a citizen, and if he or she is a long time permanent resident of the CNMI, and if he or she maintains decent grades, and if he or she can get accepted by the college of their choice, well then, they can go. There are limitations, of course. Support for most students is limited to about \$8,000 annually. There are larger amounts for students who have very high grade point averages, but the basic support is enough to cover school-related costs per semester at the University of Hawaii (Manoa), and, I hasten to add, at the University of Guam.

The CNMI has an ulterior motive in allowing such a largesse to

its young people: it needs a college educated workforce to advance its economy. It, the CNMI, only asks that its students come back after they graduate and ply their trade on local soil. Bear in mind, dear reader, that the "only" industry that can never cost the community more than it returns to it is Education—the absolutely only one! The CNMI recognizes this undeniable fact, hence the support. The financial support thus granted by the CNMI is through the CNMI grant and scholarship office and the SHEFA grant office.

The amount of grant money allowed is enough to cover school-related costs, as stated above. It's enough, that is, if a student can achieve resident status at the college they go to. Hawaii and Guam offer automatic residency to CNMI students.

The students that I mentioned visiting above were majoring variously in Business, Nursing, Education, and Natural Resource Management—all areas of need in the CNMI. The Natural Resource Management major was one of my former students. The codicil to all of this is that we need to get our students, once educated, to return. The lure of the big city—and Honolulu definitely qualifies as a big city—looms large.

The grants will not cover everything that a student must pay

for, of course; housing and other personal expenses must be borne by the student. But, even in that, there can be seen a silver lining: colleges routinely assist students in finding jobs to cover those other costs.

Note: the grants are not required to be repaid if the student taking advantage of them returns and works in the CNMI. It must be repaid if the student does not return.

Taken together, the CNMI's efforts to improve the size and quality of its work force is significant. The CNMI really is the land of educational opportunity.

## Obama, Notre Dame and another commencement season

These days, protests over college commencement speakers herald spring's arrival as surely as longer days and greening leaves.

The most interesting of this season's controversies involves President Barack Obama's scheduled appearance at America's most prominent Roman Catholic institution of higher learning, the University of Notre Dame. The school traditionally invites a new chief executive to address its graduates, and Obama—like Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush—accepted. The president will travel to the school's South Bend, Ind., campus May 17 to speak to graduates and to receive, as also is traditional, an honorary doctor of laws degree.

However, a small group of protesters is outraged that a Catholic university would extend such an invitation to a politician who is both pro-choice and willing to countenance embryonic stem-cell research—even if he is, as we used to say, the leader of the free world.

There are a couple of things about this culture-warfare-as-usual controversy that are fresh and consequential enough to be of interest. The first is the protesters and their connections. Many are part of a vocal, Internet-savvy lobby that has been agitating to coerce the church's prelates into denying Communion to Catholic officeholders who deviate from a rigidly "pro-life" line. Made up of a number of smaller groups, this lobby has campaigned to keep other pro-choice officeholders (of any religion) from speaking at Catholic schools. Its supporters also have been vociferously active in the movement to use abortion as a wedge to lever Catholics into the religious right.

The effort turns on convincing Catholics—for decades now, the principal swing voters in presidential elections—that they're

obliged to vote on the basis of moral issues important to the right wing of the church, such as abortion, stem-cell research and, more recently, marriage equality. The movement has attracted a handful of marginal figures among the country's Catholic bishops. Two of them—the bishops of Phoenix and South Bend—have weighed in condemning Obama's appearance at Notre Dame. The South Bend bishop, who usually attends the graduation, has said he'll boycott this year's ceremony.

The principal organizer of the Notre Dame protest is a group called the Cardinal Newman Society—no, they're not the people who ran the Newman Centers you might recall from your college campus. This bunch came together in 1992 to enforce more stringent orthodoxy at American Catholic universities.

One of its projects is to publish essays by the Rev. C. John McCloskey, the Opus Dei priest who acts as a kind of chaplain to the GOP's neoconservatives and was influential in the conversion to traditional Catholicism of such prominent conservative commentators as Robert Novak and Larry Kudlow. In one of the essays disseminated by the society, McCloskey argues that "for a university to be truly Catholic," its faculty would have to be "exclusively" Catholic. Welcome back to the Counter-Reformation.

The Newman Society is linked to two organizations—CatholicVote.org and the Fidelis Center—whose programs are clearly geared toward bringing Catholics into the Republican Party.

Two vigorous spokesmen for the protest have been Southern California talk-show host Hugh Hewitt and Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry, who converted from evangelical Protestantism to Catholicism about four years ago. "The faithful Catholic world is justly enraged at the treachery of Notre Dame's

**By TIM RUTTEN**

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Rutten is a Times columnist. E-mail him at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.



leadership," Terry said. "Notre Dame will rue the day they invited this agent of death to speak."

Some people just won't be happy until the Inquisition has office space again and kindling is being piled up around the local stakes.

What's most interesting is the push-back they're getting. The publisher of the influential National Catholic Reporter newspaper has accused the Newman Society of trying to turn the church's universities into "Catholic madrasas." Father John Jenkins, the university's president, has said he has no intention of withdrawing the invitation made to Obama, whom he called "an inspiring leader."

According to Notre Dame's campus newspaper, student reaction to the invitation has been overwhelmingly positive, although the paper reports an interesting split: 70 percent of the letters it has received from alumni oppose the president's appearance, while 73 percent of current students and 97 percent of the graduating seniors approve of the invitation.

It seems that GOP activists are going to have to look elsewhere—and to another generation—for their single-issue voters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

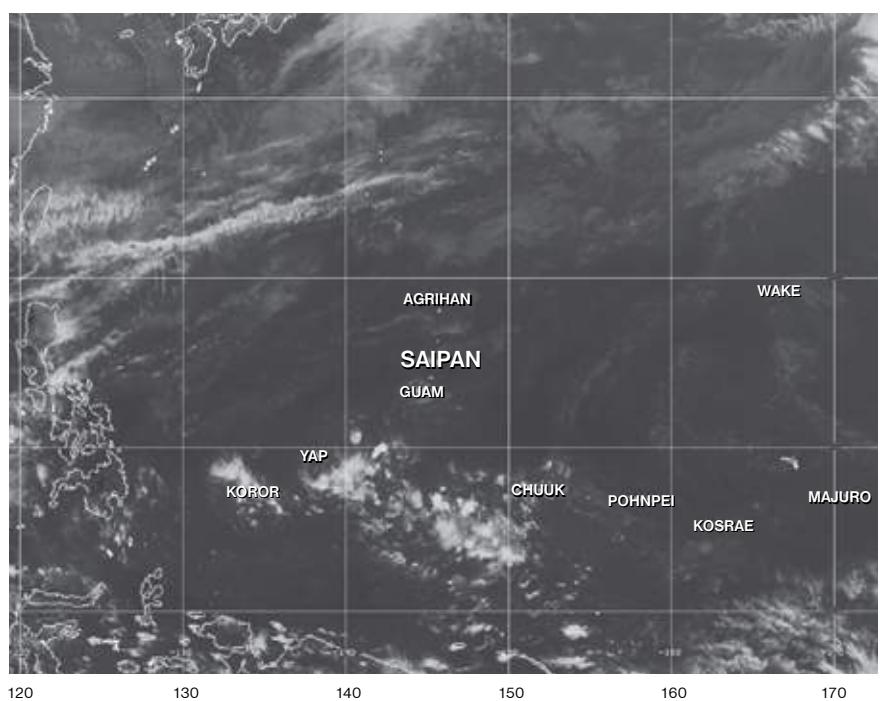
| TODAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                                | SUNDAY                                  | MONDAY                                  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |   |   |   |
| Partly cloudy.<br>Northeast winds<br>10 to 15 mph. | Mostly sunny with<br>isolated showers.<br>Northeast winds<br>10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with<br>isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with<br>isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with<br>isolated showers. |

▲86° ▾76°

| TODAY     | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY  | SUNDAY    | MONDAY    |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|           |           |           |           |           |
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▲86° ▾76°

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



## PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N164E southwestward to 21N155E then continues as a stationary front to 21N141E. Scattered light showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of this front. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers near and northwest of Palau within 100 miles of 8N134E and from east of Yap to south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 9N141E to 4N151E.

## Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

### Moonrise/Moonset

|          |         |         |          |          |          |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today    | 6:12 AM | 6:30 PM | Today    | 11:29 AM | 12:01 AM |
| Friday   | 6:11 AM | 6:30 PM | Friday   | 12:32 PM | 12:59 AM |
| Saturday | 6:11 AM | 6:30 PM | Saturday | 1:34 PM  | 1:53 AM  |
| Sunday   | 6:10 AM | 6:30 PM | Sunday   | 2:33 PM  | 2:41 AM  |
| Monday   | 6:09 AM | 6:30 PM | Monday   | 3:30 PM  | 3:25 AM  |

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

### DEPARTURES

#### Saipan-Rota

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

#### Saipan-Guam

|        |         |         |              |
|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| C09317 | 5:00am  | 5:50am  | Daily        |
| C09313 | 8:30am  | 9:20am  | Daily        |
| C09597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm  | 1,7 via Rota |
| C09601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm  | 2,3,4,5,6    |
| C09603 | 3:30pm  | 4:20pm  | Daily        |
| C09605 | 6:30pm  | 7:20pm  | Daily        |
| C09599 | 9:30pm  | 10:20pm | Daily        |

#### Saipan-Narita

|        |        |        |             |
|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:35am | Daily       |
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 1:30pm | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:30pm | Daily       |

#### Guam-Narita

|       |        |        |       |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| NW 73 | 4:10pm | 7:00pm | Daily |
| NW 81 | 3:55pm | 6:55pm | Daily |

#### Saipan-Osaka

|        |        |        |       |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | 1,4,6 |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|

#### Guam-Osaka

|       |        |        |       |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| NW 79 | 4:45pm | 7:35pm | Daily |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|

#### Saipan-Nagoya

|        |        |         |       |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 11:05am | Daily |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|

#### Guam-Nagoya

|       |        |        |       |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| NW 23 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|

#### Saipan-Incheon

|        |        |         |                 |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| OZ 604 | 2:10am | 6:00am  | 1               |
| OZ 604 | 2:40am | 6:30am  | 2,3,4,5,6,7     |
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | 1,4,6 via Osaka |
| OZ 606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm  | Daily           |

#### Saipan-Busan

|        |        |        |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| OZ 608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1,4,5,7 |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|

#### Saipan-Shanghai

|        |        |        |     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| FM 844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2,6 |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|

#### Rota-Guam

|         |         |        |     |
|---------|---------|--------|-----|
| CO 9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1,7 |
|---------|---------|--------|-----|

#### Guam-Palau

|        |        |        |     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| CO 953 | 7:40pm | 8:40pm | 1,7 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 6:50pm | 3,5 |

#### Palau-Manila

|        |        |        |     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| CO 893 | 7:35pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|

#### Guam-Manila

|        |        |        |               |
|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 8:00pm | 9:40pm | Daily         |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:50am | 1,2,4,6,7     |

#### Nagoya-Manila

|       |        |         |       |
|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| NW 71 | 8:40pm | 11:55pm | Daily |
|-------|--------|---------|-------|

#### Incheon-Hongkong

|         |        |         |       |
|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| OZ 721  | 9:20am | 12:00pm | Daily |
| OZ 723  | 7:45pm | 10:35pm | Daily |
| OZ 7173 | 8:00pm | 10:50pm | 5,7   |

#### Narita-Manila

|      |        |         |       |
|------|--------|---------|-------|
| NW 1 | 7:00pm | 10:55pm | Daily |
|------|--------|---------|-------|

#### Hongkong-Incheon

|         |         |        |       |
|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| OZ 724  | 12:30am | 4:50am | Daily |
| OZ 7183 | 12:45am | 5:05am | 1,4,6 |
| OZ 722  | 1:30pm  | 5:45pm | Daily |

#### Manila-Narita

|      |        |         |       |
|------|--------|---------|-------|
| NW 2 | 7:45am | 12:40pm | Daily |
|------|--------|---------|-------|

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily

FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily

FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily

FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily

FRE 12

# 5th Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

David Maratita, second right, director of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division, speaks to participants in Monday's opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe, while other resource speakers for the plenary session on enforcing underage drinking laws on the islands look on. From left, Nick Guerrero of the Department of Public Safety, Michael Evangelista of the Office of the Attorney General, Maratita, and Juvenile Probation supervisor Syl S. Ada Jr. of the Division of Youth Service.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rebecca Respicio, left, of the Guam Department of Youth Affairs, addresses participants in Monday's 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe, while other resource speakers for the plenary session on enforcing underage drinking laws on the islands look on. From left, Respicio, Audrey Tapasco of the Guam Governor's PEACE program, Nick Guerrero of the Department of Public Safety, Michael Evangelista of the Office of the Attorney General, David Maratita of the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division, and Juvenile Probation supervisor Syl S. Ada Jr. of the Division of Youth Service.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Over a hundred participants in Monday's opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe listen to resource speakers. This year's conference theme, "Strengthening Micronesian communities one youth at a time," signifies understanding that island communities cannot be strong without the involvement of the young people.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, joins on the table Micronesian Youth Services Network president Sarah M. Thomas-Neddedog, left, and Shawn Jenkins of the Westcare Foundation, center, in Monday's opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Catholic priest Florentino Recaido, left, gestures as he raises a question for resource speakers in Monday's opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe. Looking on is George L. Salas, right, one of the conference's masters of ceremonies.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Micronesian Youth Services Network president Sarah M. Thomas-Neddedog addresses the crowd during the opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Margarita T. Aldan, left, and Joyce Songsong, right, give out information and brochures about the different programs of the Department of Public Health in the exhibit area of Monday's 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sweety Kalbesang, a student from Palau, addresses participants in Monday's opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe.

Gregorio M. Ecle, a student at the University of Guam, performs a traditional Chamorro chant during the opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

George L. Salas, left, and Frances Sablan, steering committee chair of the Micronesian Youth Services Network, serve as hosts during the opening of the two-day 5th Annual Micronesian Youth Services Network Conference at the World Resort Saipan in Susupe Monday.

# Business

## Pistachio company: Raw nuts may be bacteria source

**TERRA BELLA, Calif.** (AP)—The salmonella scare that prompted a blanket federal warning against eating pistachios may have erupted because contaminated raw nuts got mixed with roasted nuts during processing, the company at the center of the nationwide recall said Tuesday.

Lee Cohen, the production manager for Setton International Foods Inc., said the company does not believe pistachios were contaminated by a human or animal source in its plant. He said the company suspects that roasted pistachios sold to Kraft Foods Inc. may have become mixed at Setton's plant with raw nuts that could have contained traces of the bacteria.

The pistachios were processed at central California-based Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc., which is in the corporate family of Commack, N.Y.-based Setton International Foods Inc. Cohen is in California to help as the Food and Drug Administration inspects the nation's second-largest pistachio processor.

Kraft spokeswoman Laurie Guzzinati said her company's auditors "observed employee practices where raw and roasted nuts were not adequately segregated and that could explain the sporadic contamination."

She said she didn't know what they saw specifically, but "that's how the auditors shared the information with us."



Close up of pistachios at a grocery store in Palo Alto, Calif., Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Federal food safety officials warned Monday that consumers should stop eating all foods containing pistachios while they figure out the source of a possible salmonella contamination. T

Roasting is supposed to kill the bacteria in nuts. But problems can occur if the roasting is not done correctly or if roasted nuts are re-contaminated.

Federal health officials warned people on Monday not to eat any products containing pistachios while they investigate.

The FDA said Setton Pistachio, the nation's second-largest pistachio processor, was voluntarily recalling more than 2 million pounds of its roasted nuts shipped since last fall. Some of those nuts were shipped to Norway and Mexico, officials said Tuesday.

For GM, failing to take quick action means surrendering to court supervision in bankruptcy. The company has resisted bankruptcy talk in the past, but Henderson said Tuesday it is now "certainly more probable."

The companies have yet to receive specifics from the task force on how much more they must cut and where, but Henderson is proceeding with deeper cuts and pulling previously announced measures forward.

## GM, Chrysler race deadlines to hold off bankruptcy

**DETROIT** (AP)—He doesn't know exactly what the Obama administration wants him to cut, but Fritz Henderson, the new CEO of General Motors Corp., isn't waiting around to find out. Cut deeper. Work harder. Move faster. That's how he described the ailing automaker's urgent effort to meet a June 1 deadline to fix its debt-ridden balance sheet, cut billions in costs and take other steps to transform itself into a profitable entity.

It's the same government-imposed race that Chrysler LLC is running, only GM's smaller neighbor has to cover more distance in half the time.

The Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker must make the same cuts as GM, and sign up Fiat Group SpA as a partner, all in 30 days. Fiat's CEO jetted to Detroit for intense negotiations, but if Chrysler doesn't meet the deadline, it's almost certainly destined for the auction house.

For GM, failing to take quick action means surrendering to court supervision in bankruptcy. The company has resisted bankruptcy talk in the past, but Henderson said Tuesday it is now "certainly more probable."

The companies have yet to receive specifics from the task force on how much more they must cut and where, but Henderson is proceeding with deeper cuts and pulling previously announced measures forward.

## Obama faces high-stakes China, Russia meetings

**LONDON** (AP)—Stepping onto the world stage for the first time in his two-month presidency, Barack Obama is holding face-to-face talks with the leaders of the two nations—Russia and China—most aggressively challenging the U.S. position atop the global order.

Obama is meeting separately Wednesday with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Chinese President Hu Jintao. Officials in both countries have called for a new global currency to end the dollar's dominance.

Dramatic in itself, the suggestion is also a sign of broader questions about whether U.S. status in the world could be threatened by the rise of a competing power bloc.

It's not likely that the new currency idea will gain immediate traction. But Steven Schrage, an international business expert at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, said it could eventually if the Obama

administration doesn't tackle the perception that the wave of massive stimulus spending in the United States could create unsustainable debt levels.

"People will be very closely reading the tea leaves," Schrage said.

That's one reason the public will see little of the meetings. Both are being held at the U.S. ambassador's residence, with the news media only allowed into the room before the talks take place and without the ability to ask questions.

Obama and his wife, Michelle, had a low-key arrival in Britain Tuesday night to launch an eight-day, five-country European tour.

The centerpiece of the president's London stay is a summit of the world's top 20 economies on the global economic meltdown. Obama's preparations continued even as he flew across the Atlantic. He consulted by phone with the summit host, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

## Doing the worm: Tweak in 'Conficker' sparks fears

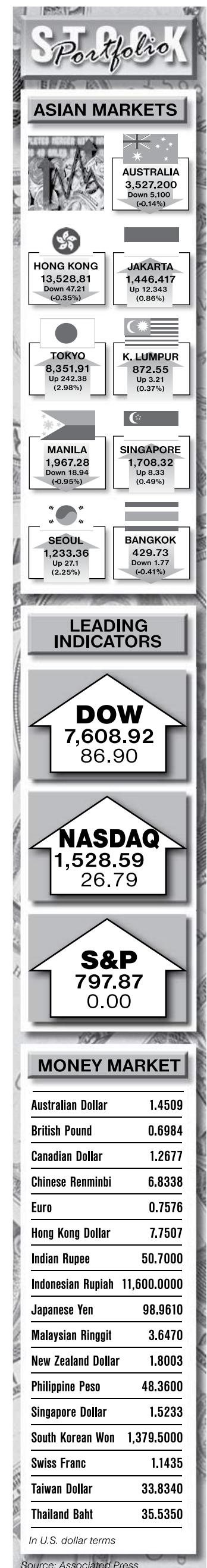
**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Even if it's not an April Fools' joke, the latest moves by the dreaded Conficker worm are by no means an Internet Armageddon, either. The worm's alarming outbreak entered a new phase Wednesday as clocks around the world ticked into the first day of April, the day it was scheduled to change programming.

But security experts appeared correct in their predictions that the day was likely to come and go without any major disruptions, even though the worm has infected anywhere from 3 million to 12 million PCs running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Computer infections now are all about making money by stealing people's personal information. And Conficker's authors stand to make more money from renting out parts of their huge "botnet" to spammers or identity thieves than by destroying parts of the Internet.

"These guys have been pretty smart until now—the worm is unfortunately very well done," said Patrik Runald, chief security advisor for F-Secure Corp. "So far they haven't been stupid. So why should they start on April 1?"

But panic over the worm had reached a frenzy.



# Nation

## Red River recedes below most sandbags in Fargo, ND

**FARGO, N.D. (AP)**—The Red River on Tuesday dropped to a level below most of Fargo's sandbag levees, taking some pressure off the makeshift flood-walls as engineers and National Guard troops watched for signs of leaks during a blinding snowstorm.

The river fell to 37.98 feet, an important threshold because the city's permanent levee system is built to about 38 feet in most spots, with temporary sandbags piled up to 43 feet.

Still, forecasters believe the river will eventually begin rising again after more snow begins to melt, so they do not believe the city is in the clear yet. "This should give us a sigh of relief," Mayor Dennis Walaker said.

The National Weather Service said the bloated river is quickly draining because cold temperatures are limiting the amount of snow and ice that normally would melt and flow into the waterway.

But the storm added to the challenge of monitoring the dikes by producing a messy mix of mud and ice and dumping as much as 18 inches of snow.

Engineers in hard hats, life vests and steel-toe boots walked along earthen dikes, struggling to see through the blowing snow as they conducted inspections. In neighboring Moorhead,



over pumps to make sure ice did not clog discharge hoses.

"I lived in North Dakota all my life. After a while, you just get tired of it," said Ryan Such, 26, who was operating a pickup truck equipped with a plow. He had been out removing snow since 2 a.m.

The mayor's message to the city was simple: "The word of the day is hunker, hunker down. That means stay snug in your areas and please do not travel."

Authorities also warned people to stay away from the dangerous river. Late Monday, a man was arrested for driving a snowmobile on a dike, and one brave soul was caught paddling a canoe up the river.

Earlier in the week, a woman got drunk and smashed her car into a levee and nearly tumbled into the river.

Fargo got some good news Tuesday when the snowstorm failed to kick up large waves against the levees—something that forecasters had been expecting. Winds rose to 30 mph in some parts but not enough to make major waves.

"Wave action right now looks pretty small," said Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Frank Worley. "The wind is blowing, the snow is blowing, but we're not looking at 1-foot waves or anything like that."

Resident Scott Manthe talks on the phone as he stands on the snow covered earthen levee in blizzard conditions in Fargo, N.D., as Red River floodwaters continue to drop along 76th Ave. S., Tuesday, March 31.

Minn., National Guardsmen went door to door in flood-prone areas to make sure sandbags were not leaking.

Trucks with snow plows rolled

through Fargo despite having hardly any visibility. Snow blowers rumbled through the day. And cars slid all over the icy roads, including one driven by a

teenager who slammed into a sheriff's department vehicle and nearly plummeted into the river.

Homeowners kept a constant vigil

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Experts: Cult member not insane despite odd plea

**BALTIMORE (AP)**—A former religious cult member who helped starve her son to death believes he will be resurrected, but legal experts say her extreme faith doesn't make her criminally insane. The mother made an extraordinary deal with prosecutors Monday that her guilty plea to child abuse resulting in death will be withdrawn if her 1-year-old son, Javon Thompson, comes back to life. Law experts and psychiatrists said there was no problem with the agreement because Ria Ramkissoon, 22, was mentally competent and freely entered into the deal, and extreme religious beliefs aren't deemed insane by law. "To say that someone is crazy because they have beliefs is very difficult," said Dr. Jonas Rapaport, a retired forensic psychiatrist and the former chief medical officer for Baltimore Circuit Court. "If I believe that God wants me to starve my child, that gets close to the edge, but it's very questionable as to calling that an illness that would exonerate someone for a crime."

**Jury: Death for 2 men in Fla. Turnpike slayings**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—A federal jury on Tuesday recommended death for two men convicted of gunning down a family of four, including two young children, prompting one of the defendants to curse and hurl a plastic bottle toward prosecutors before he was dragged from the courtroom. The sentence marks the first federal death penalty recommended in Florida since Congress reinstated capital

punishment in 1988. District Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley said he would impose the final sentence for Daniel Troya and Ricardo Sanchez Jr., both 25, at a later hearing. The two were convicted March 5 of fatally shooting Jose Luis Escobedo, 28; his wife, Yessica Guerrero Escobedo, 25; and their sons, Luis Julian, 4, and Luis Damian, 3. They were found slain alongside Florida's Turnpike on Oct. 13, 2006. "Ladies and gentlemen, when you leave the courtroom today, you need to leave with your heads held high," Judge Hurley told the jury before excusing them.

#### Mo. mom accused of giving alcohol to young teens

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)**—A mother and another woman face felony child-endangerment charges after a 14-year-old's birthday party that ended with two young teens being taken to a hospital. Karen Christine Downs, 43, of Kansas City, and Kelsee Guest, 25, are accused of providing liquor and beer to six 13- and 14-year-olds at a February birthday party for Downs' daughter. Two girls, one 13 and the other 14, passed out and were later taken to a hospital, according to court documents. Downs allegedly offered \$10 to whoever could chug a glass of vodka the fastest. Guest is accused of pouring the shots. "We continue to work to educate teenagers and adults about the dangerous effects of teen drinking," Platte County prosecutor Eric Zahnd in a news release. "But understand this: It is a crime to give alcohol to somebody's child. And any adult who creates a substantial risk to the life, body, or health of a child can face felony charges."

## Sebelius admits errors, pays \$7,000 in back taxes

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Health and Human Services nominee Kathleen Sebelius has corrected three years of tax returns and paid more than \$7,000 in back taxes after finding "unintentional errors"—the latest tax troubles for an Obama administration nominee. The Kansas governor explained the changes to senators in a letter dated Tuesday that was obtained by The Associated Press. She said they involved charitable contributions, the sale of a home and business expenses.

She and her husband paid a total of \$7,040 in back taxes and \$878 in interest to amend returns from 2005-2007.

Several Obama administration nomi-

nees have been derailed by tax issues, notably the president's first nominee for HHS secretary, former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle. He withdrew from consideration while apologizing for failing to pay \$140,000 in taxes and interest.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., quickly issued a statement supporting Sebelius' nomination.

"Congress is going to need a strong partner at the Department of Health and Human Services to achieve comprehensive health reform this year, and we have



Sebelius

that partner in Gov. Sebelius," Baucus said. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Gov. Sebelius has the political experience, determination, and bipartisan work ethic to get the job done with Congress this year. She's the right person for the job."

Sebelius is to appear Thursday before Baucus' committee, which will vote

on sending her nomination to the full Senate. Sebelius testified Tuesday before the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee before the tax issue became public, getting a friendly reception.

## Mom: Suspect's wife survived NC shooting by hiding

**CARTHAGE, N.C. (AP)**—The nurse's assistant who may have been the target of a deadly nursing home rampage in North Carolina survived by hiding in a bathroom inside a locked area for Alzheimer's patients, her mother said Tuesday.

Margaret Neal said her daughter Wanda is "devastated" by the alleged actions of estranged husband Robert Stewart, who authorities believe killed seven residents and a nurse during Sunday's attack.

She believes Stewart was after her daughter, who was safe behind the

passcode-protected doors of the Alzheimer's care unit at Pinelake Health and Rehab as he allegedly shot up the home's hallways.

"She said she hid in the bathroom. She was close to him," Neal said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"The reason he didn't get to her was because he didn't know the code."

Neal said her daughter left Stewart about a month ago and moved back to a home on the Neal family property, about half an hour from the site of the shootings in Carthage. She said Stew-

## NYC ultra-Orthodox Jews give Amish walking tour

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The city's ultra-Orthodox Jews took the Pennsylvania Amish on a walking tour of their world Tuesday, saying their communities are naturally drawn to each other with a commitment to simpler lifestyles.

"It's reinforcing to the Amish community to see us Jews living the way the Bible says Jews are supposed to live, and have lived since the time of Moses

and Abraham," said Israel Ber Kaplan, program director for the Chassidic Discovery Center in Brooklyn.

"The Amish are also living their lives as the Bible speaks to them."

Dozens of Amish residents from Lancaster County, Pa., toured a Hasidic neighborhood in Brooklyn's Crown Heights—the second year in a row the community invited the Amish to learn more about

their culture. Rabbi Beryl Epstein called the experience "living Judaism."

The neighborhood is home to an ultra-Orthodox Lubavitcher sect born about 200 years ago in Russia.

Today's Lubavitchers wear the black hats and beards of their 18th-century forebears, speak Yiddish and refrain from turning on electricity or driving cars on the Sabbath.

# Asia

## RP Red Cross wants proof hostages alive

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine Red Cross asked al-Qaida-linked militants Wednesday for proof that three aid workers held hostage were alive as troops and tanks moved closer amid threats to behead the captives.

The governor of southern Jolo island, Sakur Tan, said an informant told him the three Red Cross captives—a Swiss, an Italian and a Filipino—were alive Tuesday hours after the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers threatened to kill one if troops did not withdraw.

Sen. Richard Gordon, head of the Philippine Red Cross, said

Wednesday he wanted proof from the Abu Sayyaf that the hostages were unharmed.

"I want to talk to the three. It is a measure to rebuild confidence," he said in a radio interview.

Security officials said a last-ditch attempt by two Muslim lawmakers to negotiate the release of the hostages faltered Tuesday after Tan, alarmed by the deadline to behead a hostage, declared a state of emergency in the predominantly Muslim province.

The declaration included a curfew, roadblocks and redeployment of government forces

near the Abu Sayyaf camp in Indanan township, only a week after they pulled out in hopes the hostages might be freed.

The latest developments prompted the kidnappers to delay their threat to harm the hostages, the two security officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Tanks and truckloads of marines rolled out of a Jolo camp toward Indanan to try to surround the gunmen in a hilly jungle, Tan said. He refused to say if a military rescue was imminent.

revolutionary armed forces will mercilessly shoot them down," the ministry quoted the radio as saying.

It was unclear what capability the North Korea has to shoot down the high-flying Boeing RC-135, which can reach altitudes of nearly 10 miles (15 kilometers) high. The threat came a day after the North claimed the U.S. and South Korea conducted about 190 spy flights over its territory in March, including over the sea off the launch site.

"Under the permanent status agreement, the Palestinians will have all the authority to

## Netanyahu vows to seek peace with Arabs

In this photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office, Benjamin Netanyahu makes his first speech as Israel's new Prime Minister in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, in Jerusalem, Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

AP



## NKorea threatens to shoot down spy planes

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea threatened Wednesday to shoot down any U.S. spy planes that intrude into its airspace ahead of a planned rocket launch.

North Korea says it will send a communications satellite into orbit on a multistage rocket between April 4 and 8. The U.S., South Korea and Japan think the reclusive country is using the launch to test long-range missile technology, and they warn Pyongyang would face

sanctions under a U.N. Security Council resolution banning the country from ballistic activity.

Pyongyang's state radio accused U.S. RC-135 surveillance aircraft of spying on the launch site on its northeast coast, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry, which is in charge of monitoring the North.

"If the brigandish U.S. imperialists dare to infiltrate spy planes into our airspace to interfere with our peaceful satellite launch preparations, our

rule themselves," Netanyahu said in comments that appeared to hark back to a decades-old notion that peace could be achieved through limited Palestinian autonomy.

His words drew a sharp reaction from Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. "I want to say to Mr. Netanyahu that the only way the Palestinians can rule themselves, by themselves, is through ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and establishing an independent Palestinian state," Erekat said.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Benjamin Netanyahu, taking office as Israel's new leader Tuesday, promised to seek "full peace" with the Arab and Muslim world, but refused to utter the words the world was waiting to hear: "Palestinian state."

The well-spoken, U.S.-educated hawk took pains to portray himself as a pragmatist, telling a packed parliament that Israel does not want to rule the Palestinians.

Thousands of African, Asian and Middle Eastern migrants fleeing wars and poverty use Libya and other North African countries as a launching pad for the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to southern Europe—often in rickety, overloaded boats. Another flimsy vessel with about 350 migrants was rescued about a day later in the same area where the fishing boat capsized in stormy waters off the coast of Libya.

A few survivors—those who could swim—were rescued, but authorities pulled 21 bodies from the waters and at least 200 more were still missing after the boat capsized Friday. It is believed to be the deadliest migrant ship accident between

Netanyahu's refusal to embrace the idea of Palestinian statehood could put him at odds with the Obama administration and much of the rest of the world. So could his decision to appoint ultranationalist politician Avigdor Lieberman as foreign minister.

In recent days, however, Netanyahu has moved to soften his image, welcoming the centrist Labor party into an otherwise markedly right-wing coalition and announcing that he supports peace talks with the Palestinians.

## Hundreds of migrants feared drowned off Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Hundreds were feared dead Tuesday in the chilly waters of the Mediterranean Sea, days after an overcrowded wooden fishing boat packed with migrants seeking a better life in Europe capsized in stormy waters off the coast of Libya.

Safely, hundreds are believed to die in the journey each year. The route between Libya to an island off the coast of southern Italy is one of the most heavily traveled for illegal migrants trying to reach Europe.

The capsized boat, which a Libyan police official said had a capacity of just 50, overturned Friday in high winds with about 250 on board. Six drowned bodies pulled from the water were seen stretched out among piles of nets and frayed ropes on the deck of a fishing boat that took part in the rescue.

## Japan gives cash to jobless foreigners to go home

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan began offering money Wednesday for unemployed foreigners of Japanese ancestry to go home, mostly to Brazil and Peru, to stave off what officials said posed a serious unemployment problem.

Thousands of foreigners of Japanese ancestry, who had been hired on temporary or referral contracts, have lost their jobs recently, mostly at manufacturers such as Toyota Motor

Corp. and its affiliates, which are struggling to cope with a global downturn.

The number of foreigners seeking government help to find jobs has climbed in recent months to 11 times the previous year at more than 9,000 people, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

"The program is to respond to a growing social problem," said ministry official Hiroshi Yamashita.

for atrocities committed three decades ago by the communist Khmer Rouge regime is seeking to be detained separately from his former comrades, his lawyer said Wednesday. Kaing Guek Eav (pronounced "Gang Geck Ee-uu") - better known as Duch ("Doik") - mesmerized the U.N.-assisted tribunal Tuesday with a personal statement accepting responsibility for crimes committed at his notorious Phnom Penh prison and expressing his "deep regretfulness and ... heartfelt sorrow." The U.N. assisted tribunal represents the first serious attempt to hold Khmer Rouge leaders accountable for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians from starvation, medical neglect, slave-like working conditions and execution during their 1975-79 rule.

### HK writer banned from Philippines over maid column

**HONG KONG** (AP)—A Hong Kong writer was banned from entering the Philippines on Tuesday for his "arrogance and disre-

spect" in a column about Filipina maids that caused widespread outrage, an immigration official said. The action came as well-known columnist Chip Tsao issued a public apology and said he had not intended to insult Filipinos with what he labeled a satirical article poking fun at Hong Kongers' poor treatment of their maids.

In the article published Friday in the English-language weekly *HK Magazine*, he writes he was so angered by the Philippines' claim on the disputed Spratly Islands, where China also claims sovereignty, that he summoned his Filipino maid to give her a lecture. Calling the Philippines "a nation of servants" that shouldn't challenge China, he wrote that he'd be forced to fire her in the event of a war between the Philippines and China. The Philippine government responded Tuesday to the growing uproar, among both Filipino officials and workers, by placing him on an immigration "blacklist for being an undesirable alien."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### US, Iranian diplomats break the ice at conference

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—In a cautious first step toward unlocking 30 years of tense relations, senior U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke had a brief but cordial meeting with Iran's deputy foreign minister Tuesday at an international conference on Afghanistan. The rare diplomatic approach was the first official face-to-face interplay between the Obama administration and the Iranian regime.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton cautioned that the talks between Holbrooke and Iranian diplomat Mehdi Akhundzadeh were promising but not "substantive." "They agreed to stay in touch," Clinton said at the close of a one-day conference

on Afghan security and development that was designed partly to allow the diplomatic turn with Iran. The meeting between Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's hand-picked Afghanistan envoy, and Akhundzadeh came on the sidelines of a session aimed at improving Afghanistan's future prospects. Akhundzadeh pledged to help the reconstruction of its neighbor, but he criticized U.S. plans to send more troops into Afghanistan.

#### Russian court begins 2nd Khodorkovsky trial

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Imprisoned former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky returned to a Moscow courtroom cage on Tuesday for a new trial on mul-

### Khmer Rouge defendant seeks change of detention

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia** (AP)—The accused torturer who is the sole defendant at Cambodia's genocide trial to have apologized

tillion-dollar embezzlement and money-laundering charges that his lawyer called "crazy." The politically charged trial will go a long way toward forging the image of Russia under President Dmitry Medvedev. Once Russia's richest man, Khodorkovsky is past the midpoint of an eight-year sentence on fraud and tax evasion charges. The conviction was widely seen as part of a Kremlin campaign to punish him for challenging Medvedev's predecessor, Vladimir Putin, and to strengthen the state's grip on energy resources. Yukos, the oil company Khodorkovsky built into Russia's biggest, was bankrupted by tax claims and auctioned off in pieces, with its most prized production assets going to state oil company Rosneft.

# Environment

## AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & SELF-RELIANCE

# Beekeeping and honey production in the NMI

*Editor's Note: This article is written by Valrick Welch from an interview with George Haberman.*

The CNMI has many advantages for food production over other areas. Aquaculture and agriculture are prime examples, with the islands' benefits of a mild climate, remote location that protects against many diseases and predators, and abundant rainfall. An area of food production that has not had much press here is honey.

Currently the Food and Drug Administration has their best scientists working on the problem of colony collapse disorder. CCD causes entire colonies of bees to die, or to abandon their hives. CCD is a major problem in the United States, Hawaii and Canada, not only because of the loss of honey production, but because they are responsible for pollinating a third of the flowering plants.

Scientists suspect that CCD is caused by mites, a virus, pesticides, environmental changes, or toxins in the environment. So far no single cause has been identified and some scientists believe CCD may be caused by a combination of the suspected agents. Whatever the cause of CCD, it does not seem to be affecting the bees in the CNMI, which may indicate a potential opportunity for the CNMI.

George Haberman started bee



The blocks used to ship the queen bees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



George Haberman holds up the hive body, where bees store their honey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

Honey production would be year-round, an advantage over areas with four seasons where honey is not produced during the winter and extra honey must be left in the hives for bee food during the times of the year when there is no pollination going on.

- Isolated location makes it easier to avoid the conditions that may be responsible for CCD.
- The local island pollens make a high quality tasty honey.
- For self-reliance purposes, a single-home beehive would produce delicious honeycomb snacks, as well as pollinate fruit trees and flowers.
- Commercial production could open up opportunities for large-scale fruit orchards and/or other farming ventures that would benefit from pollination from bees.



Cement beehives, built to withstand a typhoon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

everything he needed to produce, harvest, and package honey. The honey produced by Saipan pollen is very dark—almost black—that is very tasty, and is easy to sell. In attempting to restart his bee colonies he purchased queens from a beekeeping business in Hawaii who distributes to the mainland, Guam and Micronesia. The first four were DOA after the five-day trip from Hawaii but the next four had two survivors that made it but also died two days later. George now plans to get his queens locally, saying that the CNMI bees are hardy because



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Plastic beehive with the top removed showing the frames and cells.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

George Haberman shows the protective suit worn when working with bees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Picture shows the excluder device that prevents drones from entering.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This is a smoker, used to confuse the bees so they don't attack during inspection of hives.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The honey extractor is a machine that separates the honey from the wax.

farming in the CNMI when he came here from Samoa in 1977. Norm Smith of the Trust Territory was already doing it and Haberman took over the business from him.

According to Haberman, the bees in the CNMI are not native, but were brought here on ships by the missionaries. In starting his new hobby he quickly found out some of the difficulties of beekeeping here. The main problem was the commercially made beehives. The wooden hives rotted in the rain, and sun, and they came apart in tropical storms and typhoons.

Haberman didn't let those small problems stop him. He made hives out of cement. The

cement hives worked, but had their limitations. The main problem being cement hives are heavy, making them difficult to move; also, the bees seem to like the wooden hives better.

In addition to the cement hives, George added plastic hives that were easy to move and the bees would stay in them; and that is what he uses today; however he prefers to use actual bee wax sheets to start the egg/larva comb building on the plastic frame. The use of plastic has been proven to work well with the local bees and with the beekeeper, but extra measures must be taken to ensure they aren't damaged from the weather.

Haberman made or purchased

they have to fight the geckos, mites, birds, and other predators that go after them year-round. "Once the bees are put in a protected hive, they do very well," he said.

He explained that to catch the bees requires finding where they live. This can be done by following bees, or looking in areas that bees like to live in like rotten, hollowed out trees, and old wooden buildings. Some hash runners informed George of a beehive in the jungle near Marpi. He will go there with a box designed for catching bees and knock the bees out of the wood into the box. From these bees he will raise a queen that will then be transferred to a hive.

# Life & Style

## Spring cherry blossoms at the National Arboretum

**WASHINGTON**—It happens every year as the breezes blow a little warmer and coax millions of reticent cherry blossoms from the safety of their protective buds. A stroll under the pink, frothy blooms sounds so enticing and "Great Gatsby"-esque; how could you resist? But then you arrive at the Tidal Basin alongside thousands of others with the same great idea, and suddenly the stroll turns into a jostle, and nature's bounty starts to feel more like a tourist trap. Psst! What if there were another way to take it all in?

Thanks to its decidedly off-the-beaten-path location, the U.S. National Arboretum is somewhat of a hidden jewel in the capital's crown. And come cherry blossom season, the 446-acre park is an ideal place for perusing the ethereal foliage without stepping on a single tourist's toes. During the official festival (Saturday through April 12), the arboretum plots a self-guided tour of flowering cherry trees, designed to showcase the varying sizes, shapes, colors and blooming times.

Since this year's peak is predicted to occur April 1-4 your best bet is to check out the early-flowering specimens, which are expected to burst into bloom this weekend. Keep in mind that the trees are scattered around the arboretum's expanse, so it's easiest to drive or bike from one location to the next. (A 35-minute tram tour will start up again April 11.)

By HOLLY E. THOMAS  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST



The National Capitol Columns are the backdrop for a flowering cherry tree at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, far from the Tidal Basin.

### WHERE IS IT?

The U.S. National Arboretum is at 3501 New York Ave. NE in Washington. On weekdays, take the B2 Metrobus from the Stadium-Armory Metro station to the Rand Street stop. Walk back to R Street, and continue two blocks to the arboretum entrance. The arboretum is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Self-guided tours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How much does it cost? Free.

For more information: (202) 245-2726, [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).

THE WASHINGTON POST

### CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2009

The Tidal Basin will have a surge of spectators starting this weekend, when the National Cherry Blossom Festival kicks off with a day of kite flying at the Washington Monument. For the next two weeks, there will be free performances and parades. There will be

street festivals and fireworks. And, this year, there will be blossoms.

The peak of the cherry blossoms varies from year to year, depending on weather conditions. Some years, the flowers and the festival are entirely out of sync. But this year it seems Mother

Nature will show up on time.

The blooming period is expected to start Saturday and continue through April 11, with the peak coming next week, April 1-4. The festival continues through April 12. (*The Washington Post*)

## Following The Flowers

Each year the cherry blossoms inspire a floral following that brings thousands of people to the Tidal Basin to see the trees in bloom or at their peak. Though the blossoms may bring you downtown, there is more to see and do on this historic circuit. Keep an eye out for the following landmarks, monuments and activities to make the most of your walk among Washington's famous flowers.

### A Walk Around The Tidal Basin

about 21 miles

- 1 **Kutz Memorial Bridge:** This bridge over the Tidal Basin created controversy because some thought it would ruin the area's natural beauty. Originally named Independence Avenue Bridge, it was renamed in 1954 to honor Charles W. Kutz, an engineer commissioner who wrote D.C.'s first zoning law.
- 2 **Japanese Lantern:** A stone lantern more than 350 years old is one of a pair from a temple complex in Tokyo. It will be lit Sunday by women related to Japanese diplomats and has officially opened the festival since its arrival at the Tidal Basin in 1954.
- 3 **First Plantings:** Bronze plaques mark two of the first cherry trees planted here in 1912 by first lady Helen H. Taft. Some of the oldest trees are in this area.
- 4 **FDR Memorial:** Dedicated in 1997, this memorial spans 7.5 acres and has four outdoor areas. Each one devoted to one of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's terms as president.
- 5 **Japanese Pagoda:** A pagoda is usually used for religious purposes. However, the granite one here commemorates the Treaty of Kanagawa (1854), which established a "firm, lasting and sincere friendship" between the United States and Japan. It arrived in pieces and without instructions in 1957. Specialists had to guess how to put it together.
- 6 **Inlet Bridges:** Gates allow the Tidal Basin to fill with water from the Potomac at high tide, then empty through the Oatley Bridge at low tide. This tidal-driven action gave the area its name.
- 7 **Uzumuri stand:** This species is the oldest living flowering cherry tree in the world; these blossoms are propagations from a 1,400-year-old tree in Japan.
- 8 **Jefferson Memorial:** The Japanese believe cherry blossoms are best experienced when a temple complements the scene. The Jefferson Memorial serves this function. More than 1,000 trees were removed to build the memorial here in 1907, which incited a group of women to chain themselves to the trees in protest.
- 9 **Indicator Tree:** The origin and species type of this tree is a mystery. No one knows who planted it or when. Yet, it is used by the National Park Service as an indicator that the peak blooming period is about to occur because it blooms about a week earlier than the other cherries.
- 10 **Paddle Boat House:** Paddle boats are usually the only type of boat seen in the Tidal Basin now. However in the 1920s, canoes, swan boats and battery-powered speedboats were allowed in the water.

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THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM AND THE TIDAL BASIN ARE PART OF THE 2009 WASHINGTON MONUMENTS AND LANDMARKS FESTIVAL.

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENTS AND LANDMARKS FESTIVAL.

The Cherry Blossom Festival kicks off this weekend. Graphic gives details on seeing the blossoms and nearby landmarks.

First, visit the 25-foot-tall specimen of a variety called Dream Catcher, outside the Visitor Services building. It blooms a soft pink against the backdrop of the National Capitol Columns, which loomed over the inaugurations of presidents from Andrew Jackson through Dwight Eisenhower before being moved to the arboretum.

Next, cruise down Azalea Road, where you'll spot Tai Haku and Fudanzakura trees just beyond the parking area. On the east side of the grounds, the Flowering Tree Collection off Hickey Hill Road is home to a group of young cherry trees, including the weeping white Snofozam, the dark-leaved Royal Burgundy and a stand of *Autumnalis Rosea*, which produces delicate pink blooms in spring and fall.

Just past the Dogwood Collection, take in the Okame tree, which ushers in spring with vibrant deep-pink blossoms. Finally, wrap up your visit at the two research fields off Hickey Lane. For these flowering cherry trees, the bloom dates run from late March to early May, the colors vary from icy white to dark pink, and the trees vary in shape and size, which is why arboretum scientists choose traits from these specimens when creating new varieties.

True, it's not as pedestrian-friendly as the Tidal Basin. But the reward lies in an abundance of the precious blossoms and a blissfully crowd-free couple of acres to yourself.

| The Yoshinos, in Bloom            |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Yoshino                           | This species of tree is a hybrid of unknown origin but is the dominant variety in Washington and at the Tidal Basin. Trees flower in white or pale pink, almond-scented clusters; they have five petals and bloom before their leaves appear. |
| Photo taken March 30, 2009        | This year, you can track the cherry blossoms online at <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/cherryblossoms">www.washingtonpost.com/cherryblossoms</a> .   |
| Blossom Calendar                  | The Washington Post will publish a photo of a flower from the same tree each day of the festival.   |
| Peak                              | MARCH 22 23 24 25 26 27 APRIL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  |
| Cherry Blossom Festival           | March 28-April 12   |
| Cherry Trees, Not Like the Others |   |
| Akibono                           | There are few types of trees that put on a show like this one. Akibono petals are pale pink that fade to white, then turn pink again as they wilt.  |
| Kwanzan                           | You'll find these trees in bloom about two weeks after the Yoshinos peak. Flowers grow in pink, hanging clusters with about 30 petals each.   |
| Usuzumi                           | The name of this cherry means "cherry tree of gray blossoms" because flower petals change from pink to white to gray. These trees can grow up to 40 feet high and were declared a national treasure in Japan in 1922.                         |
| Sargent                           | This type of cherry is one of the most resistant to cold weather. Flowers are usually light pink.   |

THE WASHINGTON POST

## 'Idol' judges distracted by Iraheta's funky outfit

NEW YORK (AP)—Allison Iraheta's funky outfit got more attention than her performance on "American Idol."

The judges' panel seemed too distracted by what she was wearing to offer much criticism of her performance. The 16-year-old rock prodigy belted the No Doubt hit "Don't Speak" - not that it mattered.

Judge Simon Cowell said Iraheta's look resembled "something out of 'The Addams Family.'" Her poofy red dress, black leggings, white heels and spiky magenta hair led Cowell to joke that the night's theme must be Halloween.

For Tuesday night's performance show, the nine remaining contestants were asked to choose from the most popular downloaded songs on iTunes.

Most failed to win over judges. Cowell said Anoop Desai's take on Usher's "Caught Up" gave him a headache. Randy Jackson compared Megan Joy's reggae-lite performance of "Turn Your Lights Down Low" to "watching paint dry." The foursome brought Lil Rounds to tears after criticizing the soul singer for playing it safe with a Celine Dion song.

It wasn't all gloom and doom. Adam Lambert, the 26-year-old theater actor who defies labels and vocal limits, continued his hot streak with a not-so-corny rendition of "Play That Funky Music." Paula Abdul called Lambert a "genius" in the vein of Mick Jagger and Steven Tyler.

Cowell told Kris Allen, Danny Gokey and Scott MacIntyre they gave their best performances so far in the top-rated Fox singing contest.

MacIntyre, from Scottsdale, Ariz., stuck to the piano again, tickling the ivories for Billy Joel's "Just The Way You Are."

"Of all the contestants that have graced the stage, I am most proud of you," Abdul told MacIntyre, who is legally blind.

The fate of these singers will be determined during Wednesday's results show. One will be sent packing - unless judges choose to use a new rule that allows them to save someone they feel has been wrongly booted by voting viewers.

## Madonna confirms her adoption push in Malawi

MCHINJI, Malawi (AP)—Madonna said Tuesday that she was following standard procedures in her adoption of a Malawian girl, her first response to accusations that she is using her fame to speed the process.

The pop superstar also took her 3-year-old adopted son, David, to visit the orphanage in Mchinji, a village near the Zambian border, where he once lived.

The orphanage's director Lucy Chipeta said she brought David, Madonna, her 12-year-old daughter Lourdes and 8-year-old son Rocco to see the room and crib that David had used.

"It was an emotional moment," Chipeta told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I am happy she brought her other children to see his roots."

Madonna took the children to the orphanage with a security detail including uniformed Malawian police officers and plain-clothed guards from a private security firm. The entourage used two Toyota Land Cruisers to block a horde of journalists and more than 200 curious children.

There were scuffles with the journalists, including cameramen and TV crews, as they tried to enter the brick-walled orphanage.

Madonna brought David on Monday to meet his biological father for the first time since he left Malawi in 2006.

"Madonna is committed to maintaining an ongoing relationship with David's Malawian roots," said Liz Rosenberg in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

She also confirmed Madonna is trying to adopt a girl named Chifundo "Mercy" James who is about 4 years old.

"Madonna is currently awaiting a judge's ruling regarding the adoption of Mercy James. She is following all standard procedures that are required," Rosenberg wrote.

A Malawian judge held a closed-door hearing Monday on Madonna's application to adopt the girl but delayed ruling on the matter until Friday.

The girl's 18-year-old mother was unmarried and died soon after she gave birth, according to the child's uncle, John Ngalande. Her father is believed to be alive but has little contact with his daughter, he said.

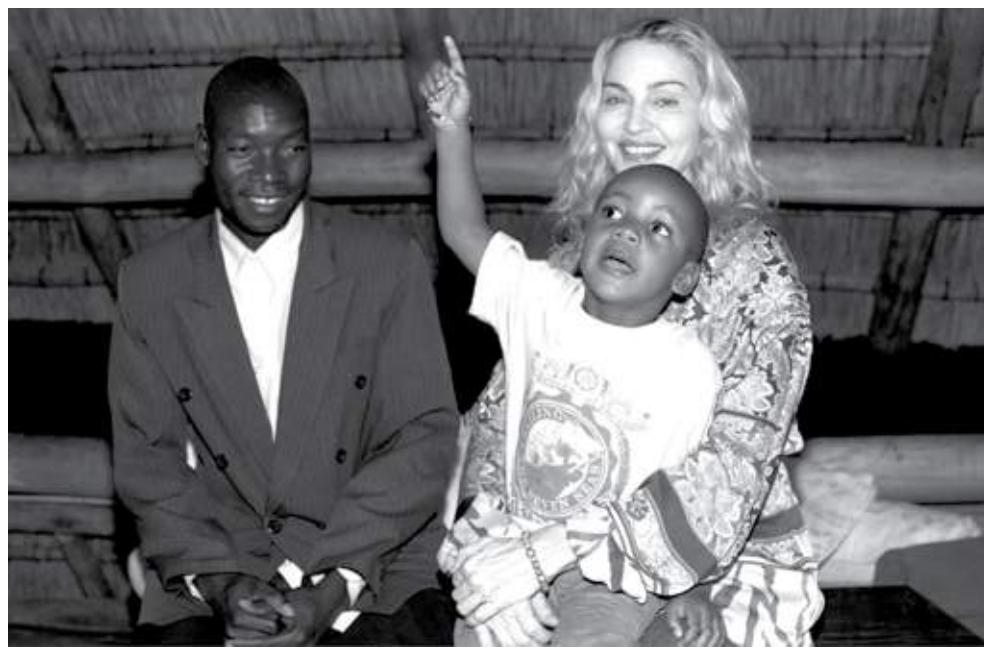
A coalition of non-governmental organizations called the Human Rights Consultative Committee has criticized Madonna's adoption attempts, saying that adoption should be the last resort and that children need to be taken care of by their own family.

"Mercy James is a child who has her extended close family members alive and we urge Madonna to assist the child from right here," a statement from the coalition said.

But others have said that the adoption would give enormous opportunities to the child that she would be unable to achieve in the impoverished country, where 14 percent of adults are infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The U.N. estimates that half of the 1 million Malawian children who have lost one or both parents have been orphaned by AIDS.

Malawian law is fuzzy on foreign adoptions. Regulations stipulate only that prospective parents undergo an 18- to 24-month assessment period in Malawi, a rule bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London.

Madonna may also face legal challenges as a single mother; she and Guy Ritchie recently divorced.



In this photo made available by Madonna's publicist, Liz Rosenberg, Madonna holds her adopted son David as they meet with the boy's biological father, Yohane Banda, left, at a lodge where the pop star is staying in Liliongwe, Malawi, Monday March 30, 2009.

AP

### Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

## †JULIAN ATTAO CONCEPCION

Wish to express our sincere and profound gratitude to each and everyone of our relatives and friends for your presence and prayers during the eight day masses offered for our beloved "JUDE" and most especially on the last day as we commemorate the anniversary of his passage to eternal life.

Our special thanks to Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, the altar servers and the Kantaye Kristo Rai choir for assisting in the Eucharistic Celebration.

We are truly blessed to have your love, comfort, support and kindness. We are grateful to all of you and you will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase and may God continue to bless us all.

Vicky Borja Concepcion, Children & Family  
Cesario T. Concepcion  
Victorino T. Borja

September 26, 1951 - March 31, 2008



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF †MARIA REMEDIO SATO TAITANO

Better known as "Familian Agaga"  
Born to Life on October 27, 1947  
She was called by her Creator  
on March 27, 2009

*And now she joins her:*

Father: †Policarpio Quitano Taitano  
Mother: †Consolacion Sato Taitano  
Brothers: †Jose S. Taitano  
†Juan S. Taitano  
†Crispin S. Taitano  
Brother-in-law: †Ralph Tereyama  
Godparents (Baptism): Marian & Jose S. Sato  
Godmother (Confirmation): Eugenia Castro

*Survived by:*

Common law-husband: Antonio Camacho (Tun Ton) & Family  
Children, In-laws and Grandchildren:  
Felix T. Sasamoto, Jr. & Suzette (Svetlana)  
Gregorio T. Sasamoto  
(Greg Devin, Latara Monique, Latanie Marie & Maxima Lynn)  
Lucy Jane S. & Ronald Arreola (Nico-Nathaniel)  
Crispin T. Sasamoto

Tina Maria S. & Herman Palacios Jr.  
(Jason John Jr., Wayneylynn, Mercede AnnMarie, Jesse Wayne,  
Lad & Maria Remedio)

Gina Lynn S. & Darrell Williams (Kazel, Shane & Alana Marie)  
Nathan John T. Sasamoto & Trini Ann B.  
(Lynnac Jaclene, Leonard John, Narinany Faith & Clayton John)

Michael T. Sasamoto & Corina (Chael, Ajah, Lexus & Mikah)  
Billy Joe T. Sasamoto

Reared Son: Nathan Justin Cabrera

Brothers, Sisters and In-laws:  
Jesus S. Taitano and Pang & children

Susana T. Tereyama & children

Rosa S. Taitano & children

Dolores T. and Danilo Catigan

Trinidad T. and Russell Demola & children

Teresa T. and Roman Sagpao & children

Special Caretakers: Renandra Dizon and Sandra T. Dela Cruz

Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at the CHC Chapel  
Viewing and last respects begins at 8:00 a.m. at the CHC Chapel  
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at CHC Chapel  
followed by interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery on Saturday, April 04, 2009.



# Downey gives Sherlock Holmes an action update

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Leave it to Robert Downey Jr. to turn Sherlock Holmes into a wisecracking action hero who ends up handcuffed naked to a bed.

Downey offered a sneak peek Tuesday of "Sherlock Holmes," his new take on the cerebral detective created by Arthur Conan Doyle.

Theater owners attending their annual ShoWest convention got to see Downey's Holmes in a bruising boxing match, diving from a tall building into London's Thames River and trading barbs with roommate Dr. Watson (Jude Law), who complains about the detective's slovenliness and nocturnal violin playing.

"Holmes, does your depravity know no bounds?" Watson asks the detective.

In one scene, the unclothed Holmes finds himself cuffed by both hands to a bed.

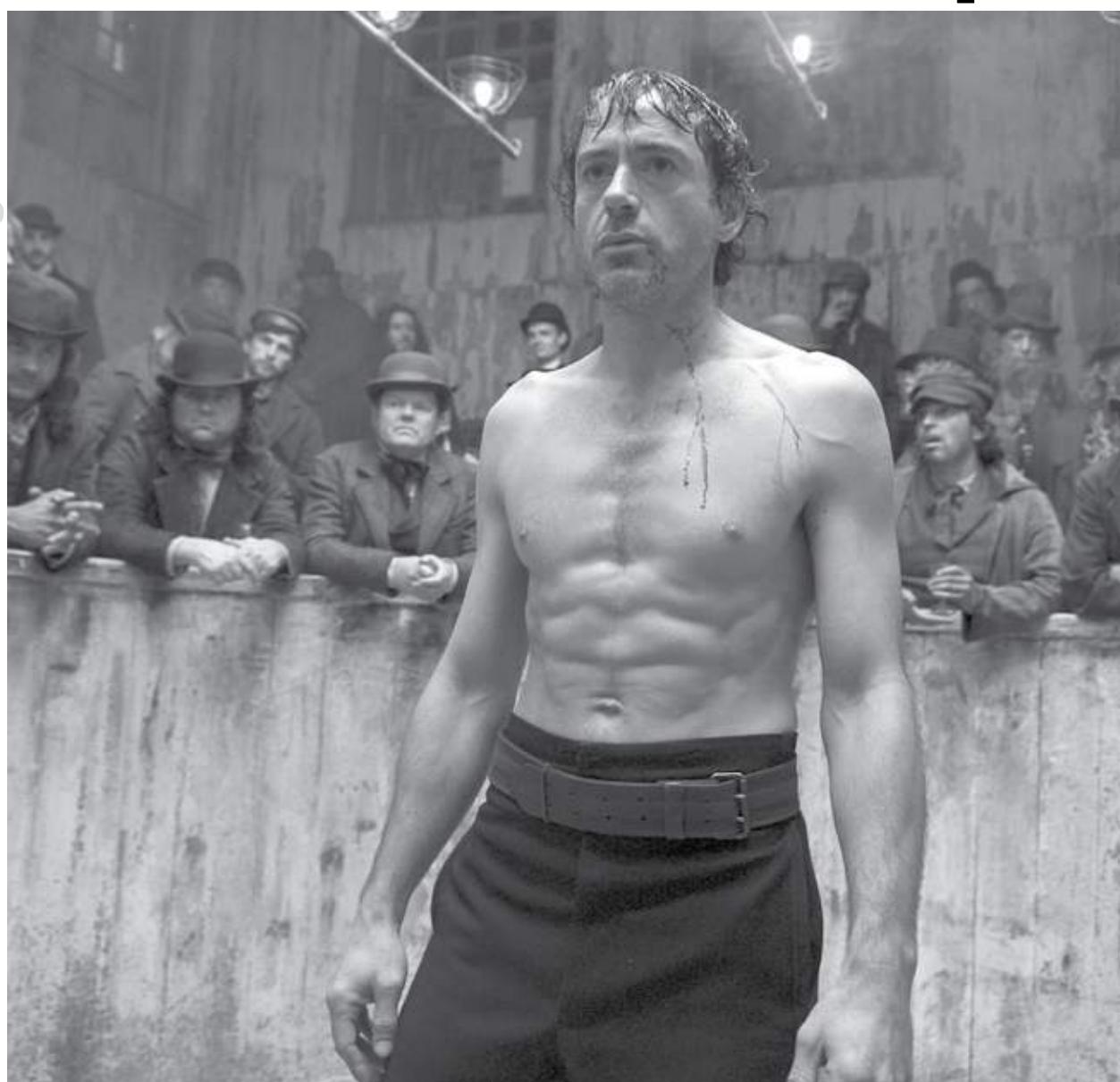
Downey also turns the detective into something of a ladies man as his Holmes gets a romantic interest (Rachel McAdams). Conan Doyle's Holmes lived a monk's life, save for one purely platonic dalliance with a female foil whose intellect he greatly admired.

Despite the saucy swagger and attitude of Downey's "Sherlock Holmes," directed by Guy Ritchie, the actor said the movie is true to the spirit of Conan Doyle's stories, which have plenty of action.

Past screen adaptations of Holmes stories "just never had the money to do it right," Downey said.

Downey joked that after his superhero flick "Iron Man" had a blockbuster opening weekend last year, his agents told him he had a window of the "next hour and a half" where he could do anything he wanted in Hollywood. His agents told him "don't do anything crazy," Downey said.

The actor said he called Joel Silver—



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Robert Downey, Jr., stars as Sherlock Holmes in a scene from "Sherlock Holmes."

the producing partner of his wife, Susan Downey, and his collaborator on "Weird Science," "Gothika" and "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang." Downey said he told Silver he was interested in doing an in-

telligent action movie that also was a period piece.

"I gave him basically an impossible list," said Downey, whose upcoming drama "The Soloist" co-starring

Jamie Foxx also was screening at ShoWest on Tuesday.

Released by Warner Bros., "Sherlock Holmes" is due in theaters Christmas Day.

## Miley Cyrus: No more 'Hannah Montana' films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Miley Cyrus plans to be back on the big screen, and soon. Hannah Montana? Not likely after her latest film.

So says the 16-year-old tween phenom, whose alter ego brings her secret double life as a pop star to theaters April 10 with "Hannah Montana: The Movie."

"We got really lucky with having the material to make one movie," Cyrus said in an interview Monday. The film reveals Hannah Montana's identity to the world in a way Cyrus says is "very clever" and diminishes the chances of a sequel—but doesn't dampen the future of the popular Disney TV show.

The film follows last year's sold-out Cyrus-Montana concert tour and her "Best of Both Worlds Concert" 3D movie, which grossed more than \$60 million, a rare hit for a concert film.

"I don't know if I would do another (Hannah Montana) film, but I would love to do another season," said Cyrus, who's signed up for a third and says she's interested in a fourth. "That would be what we would all agree on."

Cyrus also seems to agree with the idea of a jump to Hollywood: She's planning to spend the summer working on a film written by "Nights in Rodanthe" and "The Notebook" author Nicholas Sparks. But this is no adaptation of a bestselling romantic novel—instead, Sparks went directly to the screenplay this time, and did so with



Actress Miley Cyrus arrives at the 22nd Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Cyrus in mind for the part.

Other than the title, "The Last Song," neither Sparks nor Cyrus are giving away any plot points. But Cyrus hints at a role that will put her acting chops to the test.

"I've always been lucky to play parts that relate to me, and this doesn't at all," she said. "I have my issues, but not as bad as this chick. So I'm happy to play someone that's just kind of out there and not someone that I'm like."

Like anyone else, Cyrus is waiting to see whether she's "a good actress or not, or if I'm just good at

playing myself."

"So," she added, "We'll see how that goes." Will that affect her status as a role model for young girls? Not any more than her feelings on the glamorous life she's chosen: Asked what kids should do if they're torn between pursuing an acting dream or going to college, Cyrus responds with her usual unfiltered candor.

"I say 'do it,'" she said, laughing as if she knew what kind of trouble she was causing for herself. "Be a freak. Go to Hollywood."

## Two more celebrities kicked off 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Playmate and the Woz are done dancing.

Playboy model Holly Madison and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak were booted from the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom Tuesday during the ABC show's first midseason double elimination.

Wozniak, 58, consistently earned the lowest score during the show's four weeks of competition so far. Judges gave him and professional partner Karina Smirnoff just 12 points out of a possible 30 for their Argentine tango on Monday, and the pair earned a meager 10 points the week before for their samba.

"There is an improvement from last week," judge Len Goodman told the couple Monday. "Last week was so terrible that almost anything that happened would have been an improvement."

Judge Bruno Tonioli told Wozniak his tango "really stunk." Ever positive, Wozniak said he "gave it a good try."

"This is a great show, a great process, a great system," he said. Wozniak previously criticized the show's scoring system and later apologized to producers.

He said performing on the program made him feel like "the luckiest person in the world."

Madison could have used a little luck Monday. The "Girls Next Door" reality show star forgot part of her Argentine tango and earned the night's third-lowest score: 16 points.

## Actor from 'Angel' dies at 33 of heart disease

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andy Hallett, who made his mark playing green-skinned, good-guy demon Lorne on the TV series "Angel," has died of congestive heart disease. Hallett was 33.

Hallett was taken by ambulance to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after having problems breathing and died there Sunday, following a five-year battle with the heart condition, his agent Pat Brady said Tuesday.

His father, Dave Hallett, was by his side.

"Andy was the all-American boy from Massachusetts," Brady said. "He was a hoot. He was comfortable wherever he went. Girls loved him. He was a very gregarious, happy young man."

Born and raised in Osterville, Mass., Hallett moved out to Los Angeles when he was 23 and worked as a messenger at a talent agency, said Brady.

He went on to become an assistant to Whedon's wife, Brady said. It was when Josh Whedon saw the lanky Hallett perform karaoke that he had him audition for "Angel," a spinoff of Whedon's hit series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Hallett snagged the part of Lorne.

Hallett proved himself a fan favorite on "Angel" as the show tune loving, red horned demon seer who runs the karaoke club Caritas and can read a person's aura when they sing, re-



In this television publicity image released by Twentieth Century Fox, Andy Hallett who portrays Lorne in the vampire TV series, "Angel," is shown.

vealing their problems and futures.

The series, starring David Boreanz as the brooding vampire Angel, ran for five seasons on the WB network before it was canceled, ending in 2004.

Hallett was diagnosed with his heart condition at the end of the show, said Brady, and had been in and out of hospitals for the past five years. He decided to concentrate on his own music, stepping away from acting.

Hallett, an only child, is survived by his father Dave Hallett and mother Lori Hallett.



In this Jan. 8, 2009 file photo, Irish actor Liam Neeson poses during a photo call to promote his movie "Taken" in Berlin.

AP

## A grieving Liam Neeson finishes work on film

**TORONTO** (AP)—Liam Neeson has completed work on “Chloe,” the film he was shooting when wife Natasha Richardson died after falling on a beginners’ slope at a Canadian ski resort.

The actor quietly slipped into Toronto for a couple of days last week to complete work on the thriller, also starring Julianne Moore.

Richardson died March 18 after falling and hitting her head during a ski lesson at Quebec’s Mont Tremblant two days earlier.

The Tony-winning actress was buried at a private ceremony in upstate New York on March 22.

A publicist for the Atom Egoyan film “Chloe,” Lisa Ghione, said Neeson completed his scenes on Friday, and the shoot wrapped Saturday.

## Steve Martin to make Grand Ole Opry debut

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Steve Martin is coming to the Grand Ole Opry, and he’s bringing his banjo.

The comedian, actor, author, playwright and musician will make his debut on the long-running country music program May 30.

An Opry spokeswoman says Martin will perform songs from his first musical album, “The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo.” Performing with him will be friends Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Stuart Duncan, Tim O’Brien and John McEuen of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

Martin, who’s been playing banjo since he was 17, wrote or co-wrote all the songs on the new album, which features several guests including Gill, Dolly Parton and bluegrass great Earl Scruggs.

The album is now sold exclusively through Amazon.com but will be available at other music retailers later this year.

# Andre 3000 charged with driving 109 mph in Ga.

**MCDONOUGH, Ga.** (AP)—Andre 3000 of the hip hop duo Outkast is free on bond after police charged him with driving 109 mph on a highway in suburban Atlanta.



Authorities say the entertainer was clocked speeding in his Porsche in a 65 mph zone south of Atlanta early Saturday.

The 33-year-old’s real name is Andre Benjamin. He is free on a \$1,200 property bond pending a court date April 29. Benjamin’s publicist did not return a call seeking comment.

Police say Benjamin told them he was going so fast because he missed an exit and had to turn around.

As the Grammy-winning Outkast, Andre 3000 and Big Boi have churned out six platinum-plus albums, including their hit double-release “Speakerboxxx/The Love Below.”

**AP**  
In a June 27, 2006, file photo Andre 3000, from the musical group Outkast, poses backstage in the press room during the 6th annual BET Awards in Los Angeles.

## Makeup and fashion gurus sue Queen Latifah

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A makeup artist and a fashion stylist claim in coordinated lawsuits that they got ugly treatment from Queen Latifah when she cheated them out of \$1 million.

Celebrity cosmetology consultant Roxanna Floyd says she lost \$700,000 when the rapper-actress failed to pay her for work she did between July 2005 and February 2008.

In a separate lawsuit, celebrity fashion stylist Susan Moses said she was cheated of \$300,000 during the same period.

The lawsuits were filed

Monday in federal court in Manhattan.

Amanda Silverman, a spokeswoman for the actress whose roles in movies include “Hairspray” and “Mad Money,” says the lawsuits have no merit, but she can’t comment more on pending litigation.

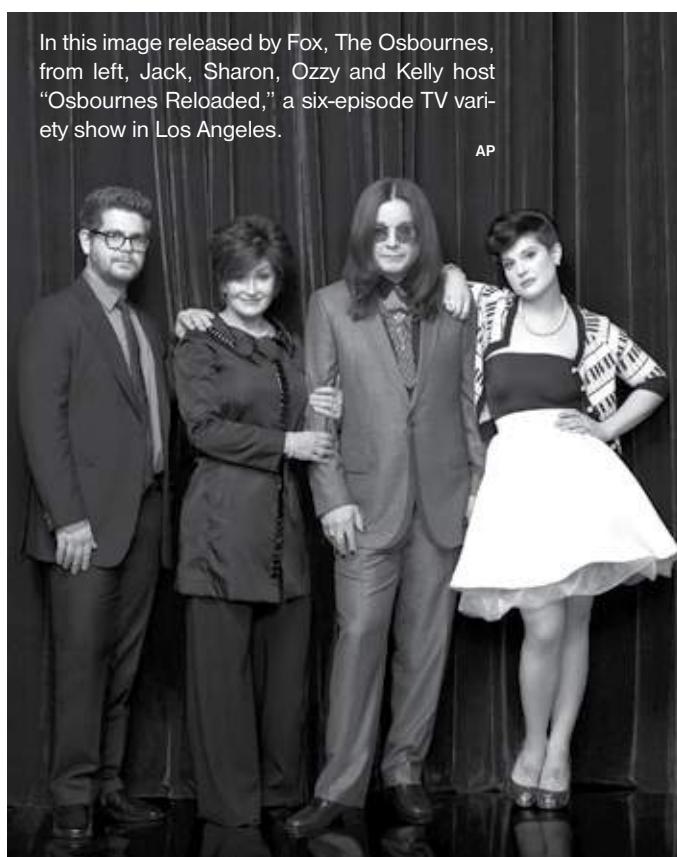
## Fla. Fox affiliate refuses to air Osbournes show

**PANAMA CITY, Fla.** (AP)—A television station in the Florida Panhandle is not going to air a new variety show hosted by Ozzy Osbourne and his family because it contains profanity and adult content. The head of Panama City Fox affiliate WPGX says he watched a six-minute preview of “Osbournes: Reloaded” and found that the time slot for the show makes him uncomfortable.

The show is set to debut Tuesday at 8:20 p.m. CDT. The offbeat time is intended to keep viewers of top-rated “American Idol” watching the show.

WPGX General Manager David Cavileer says he would have aired the Osbournes show later in the evening. Instead, he’ll air “The Simpsons” during the earlier time slot.

A Fox Broadcasting Co. spokesman says any affiliate can pre-empt a program it deems inappropriate for its market.



## Woman needs an hour alone between work and husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When my husband, “Wyatt,” and I first started dating, we both had jobs. Because I am a teacher, my workday ended about two hours before his, allowing me some much-needed time alone before he came home.

Just before our wedding three months ago, Wyatt was laid off, and he has not been able to find another job. Although he is in school part-time, he is always in the house when I return from work.

Abby, I have no time for myself! All day I work with my students, and all evening I am with Wyatt. I have tried to explain to him that I need a little time to unwind when I first get home, but he always finds some reason to stick his head in and chat while I’m reading or taking a bath. I desperately need some alone time. I love my husband dearly, but how can I tell him I need an hour away from him?

PRIVACY PLEASE IN N.C.

DEAR P.P.: You are not the only spouse—of either sex—who needs some alone time to quietly transition from workday to home life. Explain this again to your husband, and do it just the way you have explained it to me. Unless you speak up, one of these days he will interrupt you, and you will erupt—which isn’t fair to him.

If he STILL doesn’t get the message, start jogging after work—for about an hour.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am co-hosting a baby shower for a friend. I do not know the other hostess well. She is insisting on serving alcohol at the shower because many of the mommy-to-be’s friends like to drink, and she says “it will provide some ‘class’ to the shower.” I disagree.

I’m not a prude, and I do drink occasionally, but I think it is inappropriate to serve alcohol at a baby shower—especially when the guest of honor can’t partake. Am I justified in stating my disapproval? And would it be OK for me to decline to contribute financially toward that shower expense?

NOT A PRUDE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR NOT A PRUDE: Nowhere have I seen it written that in order for a baby shower to be “classy,” alcohol must be served. You are certainly within your rights to air your feelings on this subject. The point you are making is a valid one. And if your co-hostess wants to go ahead and serve alcohol at the shower, you are under no obligation to help her foot the bill.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was able to retire while I was in my mid-50s, after teaching for 33 years. Since then, I have been traveling as often as possible and volunteering on a regular basis.

Sometimes in these situations I find myself with a group of people older than I am. When I am asked my age, which I don’t mind, the response I get is, “Oh, you’re just a pup!” Because I am chronologically younger than most of the group shouldn’t automatically discount or invalidate me.

How can I respond to these comments nicely, yet make the point that I also have something to offer regardless of my age?

AGELESS PUP IN ARVADA, COLO.

DEAR AGELESS PUP: First of all, stop being so defensive. When someone calls you a “young pup,” just laugh and say, “If you think I’m a young pup, you’re barking up the wrong tree!”

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



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# Calipari to leave Memphis for Kentucky



This is a March 20, 2009 file photo showing Memphis coach John Calipari answering a question during a news conference for a second-round men's NCAA college basketball tournament game in Kansas City, Mo.



**LEXINGTON, Ky.** (AP)—John Calipari agreed Tuesday to leave Memphis and the dominant program he built and take on the challenge—and riches—of returning Kentucky to college basketball glory.

Calipari will receive an eight-year, \$31.65 million deal plus incentives, according to the university, making him the highest-paid coach in college basketball. The school also will pay Memphis a \$200,000 buyout.

The 50-year-old Calipari has a career record of 445-140 in 17 seasons. He chose to leave Memphis after nine seasons of success, including a record of 137-14 over the past four years.

He spent the day considering the Wildcats' lucrative offer and calling former Kentucky coaches, including Joe B. Hall.

Hall said the informal chat centered on what it takes to survive one of college basketball's most prestigious and most scrutinized jobs. Kentucky fired Billy Gillispie last Friday after two disappointing seasons.

The Commercial Appeal of Memphis, Tenn., first reported the hiring.

Tigers walk-on Preston Laird said Calipari met with the team Tuesday afternoon, first as a group and then with individual players. The freshman guard described the meeting as very quiet, "Nobody really said anything."

"He started off by telling us it was the hardest day of his life," Laird said.

Memphis has scheduled a news conference for noon to discuss the future of its basketball program.

The news of Calipari's hire

spread quickly across Lexington. More than 100 fans stood out in the rain at Blue Grass Airport hoping to catch a glimpse of Calipari's arrival on a plane from Memphis. No such luck, not that it mattered to a fan base eager for a winner.

Hoping to make a big splash after Gillispie's tenure, Kentucky went deep into its pockets to land one of the nation's most high-profile coaches.

Calipari's deal would eclipse the \$3.5 million average salary of Florida's Billy Donovan and dwarf those of Calipari's predecessors Rick Pitino, Tubby Smith and Gillispie.

Pitino, now the coach at rival Louisville, never made more than \$2 million a season during his remarkably successful eight-year run at Kentucky. Smith's compensation neared \$2.1 million at the end of his decade with the program and Gillispie received a base salary of \$2.3 million with another \$750,000 available in incentives.

The salary nearly triples the \$1.6 million salary of Kentucky football coach Rich Brooks, a rarity in a conference where football reigns.

Calipari already was one of the highest-paid coaches in the country, signing an extension with Memphis last year that paid him \$2.35 million annually.

Memphis had promised to match whatever Kentucky offers, but the Wildcats have one thing Memphis doesn't: the opportunity to coach in a top-flight conference at the home of college basketball's winningest program.

It'll be seen as money well spent if Calipari can duplicate the success that's followed him throughout his collegiate coaching career.

He put together turnarounds at Massachusetts and Memphis, winning over 440 games in 17

seasons and leading both schools to a Final Four.

Putting the pieces together at Kentucky might not take long, though the program has plenty of question marks.

The Wildcats went 22-14 this year, missing the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991 despite having two of the SEC's best players in guard Jodie Meeks and forward Patrick Patterson.

Patterson said after the season he'd likely return for his junior year, while Meeks—a second-team All-American—was going to take his time on a decision.

Hiring Calipari might be all the incentive they need to return. He won over fans and made over the program at Memphis behind an electrifying style of play that has churned out a handful of NBA players, including Derrick Rose, Shawne Williams, Dajuan Wagner and Joey Dorsey.

Calipari's ability to lure some of the nation's best high school players—regardless of how long they plan on sticking around—has made him an attractive candidate for years.

He's been able to fight off temptation for nearly a decade, but the chance to makeover one of college basketball's elite programs proved to be too much.

Athletic director Mitch Barnhart stressed the need to find a coach who can handle all that comes with coaching the Wildcats. Calipari has never met a camera he didn't like and certainly doesn't lack confidence—two things Gillispie struggled with during his tenure.

Kentucky received permission to speak to Calipari on Monday, less than 72 hours after Gillispie was fired. Sensing the need to make a

home-run hire after the Gillispie debacle, Calipari certainly has the resume and the charm to sate a rabid fan base.

But he also has some baggage. He led Massachusetts to the Final Four in 1996 only to have the school vacate the honor when star Marcus Camby admitted to receiving gifts from a sports agent.

Though Calipari has never been sanctioned by the NCAA, he's been unable to shed the Camby mess. His hiring could raise some eyebrows from fans still smarting from the recruiting violations during the Eddie Sutton era 20 years ago that nearly wrecked the program.

Pitino swooped in to save Kentucky after Sutton left, taking the Wildcats to three Final Fours and a national title in eight years.

Neither Gillispie nor Smith duplicated that success, but neither had the charisma nor swagger of Calipari, who now finds himself working an hour east of Pitino.

The two have a long history dating back to when Pitino recommended Calipari for the head coaching job at UMass in 1988. Pitino's Kentucky team beat Calipari's UMass squad in the '96 Final Four and the two have had a testy—at least on the floor—relationship ever since.

The rivalry really began when Pitino took over at Louisville in 2001 as the Cardinals and the Tigers fought with Cincinnati and Marquette for C-USA supremacy. Those three programs left for the Big East in 2005, and Memphis has since dominated the conference.

Memphis hasn't lost a C-USA game since 2006, and the Tigers are the only program in the country to receive either a No. 1 or No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament in each of the last four years.

## Broncos will try to trade unhappy QB Cutler



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos said Tuesday they will grant Jay Cutler his request and try to trade the disgruntled Pro Bowl quarterback.

There is no shortage of teams interested in the 25-year-old rocket-armed quarterback whose unhappy offseason began with Mike Shanahan's firing and has haunted new coach Josh McDaniels' budding regime.

Broncos owner Pat Bowlen released a statement saying both he and McDaniels had been unable to get Cutler to call them back over the last 10 days. Bowlen said he spoke with Cutler's agent, Bus Cook, on Tuesday and came away convinced "that Jay no longer has any desire to play for the Denver Broncos."

Therefore, Bowlen said, "We will begin discussions with other teams in an effort to accommodate his request to be traded."

Cook didn't immediately return messages left by The Associated Press, and McDaniels, through a team spokesman, declined to comment.

Cutler's been unhappy ever since learning that McDaniels failed to inform him about trade talks in which the Broncos showed interest in Matt Cassel. Cassel wound up being traded by New England to Kansas City, and then Cutler asked to be traded.

Still, McDaniels had faith he could repair the strained relationship with his temperamental quarterback - if only he could get him to call him back. On Tuesday, he became convinced that just wasn't going to happen.

When told the owner was going to try to trade his franchise quarterback, linebacker Spencer Larsen said, "It's shocking. It didn't seem like he was going anywhere. This is the worst-case scenario."

Cutler skipped McDaniels' first team meeting in mid-March and the first 2 1/2 weeks of the Broncos' offseason conditioning program, forfeiting a \$100,000 workout bonus.

Cutler is halfway through the six-year, \$48 million contract he signed as the 11th overall pick out of Vanderbilt in the 2006 draft. He's 17-20 as Broncos starter, although that's misleading because of Denver's dismal defense.

In games that the Broncos have allowed 21 points or fewer, Cutler is an impressive 13-1, and that only loss was to Green Bay in 2007 when the Packers won the coin toss and Brett Favre threw an 82-yard touchdown pass on the first play of overtime.

Cutler set several franchise passing records last season, when he threw for 4,526 yards, 25 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. In his 37-game career in Denver, he's completed 62.5 percent of his passes for 9,024 yards, 54 TDs and 37 interceptions.

Cutler was upset when Shanahan was fired as coach, and even requested that members of Shanahan's offensive staff be retained, which didn't happen.

He had started to come around, meeting several times with McDaniels and expressing an eagerness to learn his intricate Patriots-style attack that will replace the West Coast system he's been running since he was a rookie.

That all changed when word leaked that McDaniels had spoken with the Patriots about Cassel.

At the NFL owners meetings in Southern California last week, McDaniels said the team was committed to Cutler, although he said no options, including trades, were being ruled out.

"I've always been optimistic," McDaniels said at the NFL meetings a week ago. "He's on our team, he's under contract, and I understand there's things we have to work toward in our relationship."

The 32-year-old McDaniels is in his first head coaching job after serving as offensive coordinator for New England, where he developed the untested Cassel into a top quarterback in 2008. He's never denied that "conversations took place" this month about acquiring Cassel, nor does he apologize for them.

"You take into consideration what anybody is trying to offer up," he said. "If the quality of the trade you feel, in the long run, improves your team, you analyze it."

"It's been made very clear to me it's my job to listen to a number of scenarios that would improve the team."

McDaniels even had fun with the feud, smiling as he posed for pictures at the NFL meetings with Cutler's No. 6 jersey when the old AFL teams showed off throw-back uniforms they'll use at some point next season.

# Cavaliers win 13th straight, 79-73 over Pistons



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—LeBron James made two crucial three-point plays down the stretch and finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their 13th straight game, 79-73 on Tuesday night over the Detroit Pistons, who gave the NBA's best home team all it could handle.

The Cavs trailed 69-67 midway through the fourth when James took over, scoring eight points and handing out an assist in a 10-0 run. With the win, Cleveland improved to 36-1 at home and became just the sixth team in NBA history to win 16 games in one month.

Richard Hamilton scored 13 and Allen Iverson 11 for the Pistons, who were held to 35 percent shooting.

## Bobcats 94, Lakers 84

At Charlotte, N.C., Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Charlotte continued its surprising mastery of Los Angeles.

Raymond Felton added 16 points as the Bobcats completed a season sweep of the Western Conference leaders, who have lost six of seven to Charlotte.

Failing to reach 100 points in consecutive games for the first time since November, the Lakers dropped their second straight. Kobe Bryant scored 25 points, but hit just 11 of 28 shots. Lamar Odom added 20 points as the Lakers dropped to 4-2 on their seven-game road trip.

## Nuggets 111, Knicks 104

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and Denver clinched a playoff spot by holding on to beat New York af-



AP  
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James is fouled by Detroit Pistons' Tayshaun Prince (22) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 31, 2009, in Cleveland.

## Tigers release Sheffield, who's 1 HR away from 500



**LAKELAND, Fla.** (AP)—Gary Sheffield's next home run will be his 500th in the major leagues.

The question is: What uniform will he be wearing when he hits it?

The Detroit Tigers released the nine-time All-Star on Tuesday, leaving him without a team as he closes in on becoming the 25th player to reach the milestone. The World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies, however, quickly called the slugger to see if there was a fit.

Sheffield left Tigers camp as the rest of his former teammates were reporting for an afternoon game against the Washington Nationals.

"I wouldn't say I'm shocked, but I am surprised," Sheffield told *The Oakland Press of Pontiac*. "To do this when somebody is one home run away ... I don't know how to react to it."

"Jim (Leyland) said, 'We're going to go with versatility.' When he said that word I thought to myself, 'I'm probably the most athletic guy on this team.' But they're entitled to their opinion," Sheffield said.

The 40-year-old Sheffield hit .178 in 18 spring training games this year. The designated hitter had eight hits, including five home runs, in 45 at-bats.

Philadelphia general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said the team talked to Sheffield and his agent. Raul Ibanez, Shane Victorino and Jayson Werth start in the outfield, and the Phillies aren't sure whether Sheffield would agree to be a backup.

"We do not have a gauge," Amaro

said. "We had a private conversation and we'll keep it private."

Any team can sign Sheffield for the \$400,000 minimum, with Detroit paying the rest of his \$14 million salary.

Marcus Thames, who will take Sheffield's place in the lineup as Detroit's designated hitter, was surprised by the release.

"Somebody told me he was released, and I couldn't believe it," he said. "(Miguel) Cabrera looked like he was in a state of shock."

Leyland, the Tigers manager, said he had a hard time sleeping Monday night, knowing he was going to release Sheffield.

"I lit two Marlboros at the same time," Leyland said. "I couldn't sleep. But I feel better that it's over with than I did at 3 in the morning."

Leyland said it wasn't a personality issue and still was struggling over the decision after Sheffield packed up his locker and left.

"It doesn't mean it's right, but I feel good. This thing has been eating at me. We need to be a more (versatile) team, and that's why it happened."

The slugger's stay in Detroit was a disappointing one. The team was hopeful Sheffield would be a powerful presence at the plate in the final season of the \$28 million, two-year contract extension it gave him after acquiring him from the Yankees for prospects. He was hurt much of his time in Detroit.

The move came a day after the Tigers acquired outfielder Josh Anderson from Atlanta, forcing the team to make some

tough decisions about its roster a week ahead of opening the season in Toronto.

"It's one of those things where you move on, you know?" Sheffield told the *Detroit Free Press*. "I was surprised. I thought I was getting ready for the season. I never thought that I wasn't going to be playing with the Detroit Tigers this year. It's probably a blessing."

In other moves Tuesday, the Tigers placed starting pitcher Jeremy Bonderman on the 15-day disabled list and optioned the contract of outfielder Clete Thomas to Triple-A Toledo.

The team said Bonderman's placement on the DL was retroactive to Monday as the right-hander continues to recover from shoulder surgery that sidelined him for most of last season.

Infielder Will Rhymes and outfielder Timo Perez were assigned to minor league camp.

The moves leave Detroit with 31 players remaining in camp.

Shoulder and assorted other injuries—and perhaps age—limited Sheffield to 114 games and a .225 average last year and 133 games and a .265 average two seasons ago with the Tigers.

Sheffield said he didn't need surgery in the offseason for the first time in several years, making him feel better during spring training than he has been since 2001.

His uncle, Doc Gooden, and other family members had planned to attend Detroit's season-opening series, hoping to watch him reach 500.

Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Barry

ter blowing most of a 27-point, second-quarter lead.

The Nuggets' win, coupled with San Antonio's 96-95 loss to Oklahoma City, moved Denver into the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference heading into the final two weeks of the season.

Nate Robinson scored 30 for the Knicks.

## Thunder 96, Spurs 95

At San Antonio, Kevin Durant scored 31 points and Oklahoma City continued to torment San Antonio.

The Thunder led by as much as 17 and denied the Spurs a playoff-clinching win after beating San Antonio for the second time this month. With eight games left, the Spurs lost their slim lead in the Southwest Division and fell into a first-place tie with Houston.

Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists for the Thunder, who fought off a furious rally from the Spurs to break a three-game losing streak and win in San Antonio for the first time since 2004.

## 76ers 98, Hawks 85

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 19 points, Andre Miller added 18 points and 10 assists, and Philadelphia overcame a season-high 33 points from Josh Smith in its victory over Atlanta.

Marreese Speights contributed 16 and Willie Green had 15 for the Sixers (38-35), who climbed within a half-game of the Miami Heat for fifth place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Smith was sensational with an array of jumpers, 3-pointers and several rim-rattling dunks. The

Bonds, Frank Robinson and Reggie Jackson are the only players in baseball history with as many home runs as Sheffield, plus at least 2,500 hits, 1,500 RBIs and 200 stolen bases.

In All-Star games, he has represented San Diego, Florida, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Atlanta and the

## Chipper Jones agrees to \$42M, 3-year extension

**KISSIMMEE, Fla.** (AP)—Chipper Jones already had a World Series ring and an MVP trophy. What he wanted was the chance to finish up in the place where he started.

The Atlanta Braves were more than glad to give it to him.

The NL batting champion and the Braves agreed Tuesday to a \$42 million, three-year contract extension though 2012, a deal that could ensure Jones becomes one of those rare stars who plays his entire career in one uniform.

There's an option that could make the extension worth up to \$61 million over four seasons.

"I didn't know much about the business when I first came to Atlanta, but I knew my goal was to play good enough, and long enough, to have this hopefully happen one day," the 36-year-old Jones said during a news conference at Atlanta's spring training stadium. "I am very, very grateful. The Braves made my decision easy."

Jones, the first overall pick in the 1990 draft, has never come close to leaving Atlanta.

"Nowadays, so many players play the game for the 1st and 15th (pay

6-foot-9 forward was 13-of-15 from the field while hitting all three of his 3-pointers.

## Pacers 107, Bulls 105

At Indianapolis, T.J. Ford hit the go-ahead jumper with 3.9 seconds left, and Indiana beat Chicago to tighten the race for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Ford finished with 22 points and nine assists. Danny Granger led the Pacers with 31 points, while Troy Murphy had 15 points and 12 rebounds after missing the previous three games with a strained medial collateral ligament in his left knee.

Derrick Rose had 24 points and a career-high 11 rebounds, Kirk Hinrich had 20 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, and Tyrus Thomas added 20 points for the Bulls.

## Mavericks 108, Timberwolves 88

At Minneapolis, Josh Howard had 14 points and six rebounds in 22 minutes in his return from an 11-game absence, Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and 12 boards, and Dallas beat short-handed Minnesota.

Jason Terry scored 21 points and Jason Kidd had eight points and 13 assists for the Mavericks, who moved four games ahead of the Phoenix Suns for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Kevin Love had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who played their second straight game without Randy Foye and Craig Smith. It was the rookie's 25th double-double, which is one more than the former MVP Nowitzki has.

Yankees since making his debut two decades ago in Milwaukee.

The career .292 hitter has 1,633 RBIs, putting him 27th on the all-time list.

Sheffield said he doesn't believe his career is over.

"No," he told *The Detroit News*. "It ain't close."

## \$42M, 3-year extension

days), but I never have," he said. "Certainly, I want to be compensated fairly for what I do, but I wasn't going to hold the organization over a barrel. And I never wanted to be a player who makes so much money that we can't stay competitive on the field. That was my main concern."

Jones hit .364 with 22 home runs and 75 RBIs last year.

A six-time All-Star, he was the NL's Most Valuable Player in 1999. His .310 career batting average ranks second among switch-hitters, trailing only Frankie Frisch's .316. He has 408 home runs, trailing only Mickey Mantle (536) and Eddie Murray (504) in homers by a switch-hitter.

He is the only switch-hitter with at least 300 homers and a .300 career batting average.

"If there is such a thing as getting better with age, Chipper is that," said Bobby Cox, the only manager Jones has had in Atlanta. "It doesn't shock me at all what he has done. It was there from the beginning, the heart and passion to be the best. From the start, it didn't take a professional eye to see what we had. You're looking at Hall of Fame stuff."

# CUC upsets Finance in women's softball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

  
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. boosted its play-off bid with an upset victory over Finance, 17-13, last Monday night in the women's division of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CUC capitalized on an early

9-2 lead after only two and a half innings to close out its regular season assignment with a 7-5 record, tying Finance.

But CUC will occupy the No. 2 spot in the playoffs behind pennant winner Northern Marianas College (10-2) by virtue of the winner-over-the-other rule.

Finance will take the No. 3 slot, while defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be No. 4.

Claire Cabian went 5-for-5

with three runs, four RBIs, and a triple, while Bobbie Norita had four RBIs on 2-for-5 at bat with a run.

Both made 18 hits with CUC coming in with 14 RBIs as against Finance's 13.

Julie Guerrero went 3-for-3 for Finance, with four RBIs, a run and a triple, while Pauline Tudela was 2-for-2 with two runs, two triples, and four RBIs.

Winning pitcher Dolorina Panuelo issued four strikeouts, gave up 18 hits, a walk, a

double, and four triples. At bat, Panuelo managed to hit 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

Losing pitcher Bego Camacho had one strikeout, two triples, 14 RBIs, and a walk, and allowed 18 hits.

CUC made two runs in the top of the first inning from leadoff batter Mel Benjamin on a single by Norita, who then reached home on another single by Mel Camacho.

The league's batting leader Liz Lebria gave Finance its

first run on a single by Pauline Tudela and followed by Lilian Aguon's run on Julie Guerrero's triple that tied the score at 2-2.

But CUC made seven runs of six hits, including an RBI single by Benjamin, two RBI single by Norita, another RBI single by Mel Camacho, and a two RBI single by Panuelo, in

the second inning.

Benjamin scored his third consecutive run on a fielding error and CUC led at 10-2.

Finance moved to within two runs by coming in with four runs in the third and two in the fourth when CUC came up with four more in the fifth, and never looked back.

## Phil Pan, Wild Boys win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Wild Boys broke into the win column, while Phil Pan claimed its second victory after prevailing

in separate games in the Masters division of the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League over the weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Wild Boys had four players scoring in double figures to down Susupe, 79-68, Saturday and notch their first win

in three games. Rolan Tengco led Wild Boys with 17 points, Marlon Banaag had 15, and Jun Abedes and Rommel Dizon contributed 14 and 12 markers, respectively.

After starting slow with 12 first quarter points, Wild Boys picked up the pace of the game in the last three quarters for an 11-point win. Wild Boys held Susupe to seven points in the second period to take a 37-24 halftime lead.

Susupe never recovered from thereon, as Wild Boys continued to outgun the former in the second half. Susupe dropped to a 1-2 record.

In Sunday's game, Amor Casabuena drilled 12 of his 20 points in the third period to lift Phil Pan to an 81-74

Scoring by quarters: 32-17, 55-39, 73-67, 100-100, 119-111 (OT).

**Saturday's Game**

**Wild Boys** 79 – Tengco 17, Banaag 15, Abedes 14, R. Dizon 12, Bautista 8, N. Dizon 8, Manuta 5.

**Susupe** 68 – Olivos 25, Lasaga 20, Santos 8, Jacob 6, Concepcion 4, Lopez 3, Calma 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-17, 37-24, 57-42, 79-68.

## Sunday's Game

**Phil Pan** 81 – Mina 28, Casabuena 18, Fernandez 13, Tibayan 8, Salazar 6, Pacheco 4, Garcia 4.

**Garapan** 74 – Carino 14, Fernandez 13, Macoto 13, De la Torre 9, Galzote 6, Abuan 3, Anasan 3, Culala 2, Garcia 2, Cortez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-21, 33-34, 61-51, 81-74.

## DOLLAR DAYS

From Page 28

to as much as 20 points, 49-29, midway in the second canto.

Just when most of the spectators expected Dollar Days to walk away with an easy win, the backcourt trio of Joemary Tumaquip, Quincy Johnson, and Bonbon Cadagat brought KFC/Taco Bell back in the game and even took a seven-point lead.

Cadagat's booming triple from the right key tied the game for the first time, 85-all, since the 2-all tally in the opening quarter. Cadagat added four more points, while Tumaquip nailed a trey in the ensuing plays to give KFC its biggest lead in the game, 92-85, with less than three minutes left in the fourth period.

It was Dollar Days time to

mount a comeback in the remaining minutes of regulation and an 11-4 run in a span of 2:20 tied the game for only the third time at 96-all, with 36 seconds left on the clock.

But KFC/Taco Bell quickly regained the lead, 98-96, when Tumaquip spotted Johnson alone on the left wing for an easy layup, with 22 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

Johnson fouled out in Dollar Day's next offensive set, hacking Kae Bernardo, who split his charities.

After Bernardo made his second free throw, moving Dollar Days within one, 97-98, KFC/Taco Bell quickly went for a fastbreak play with Cadagat making a reverse layup that gave his team a 100-97 lead, with 14 seconds left in regulation.

Left without a timeout, Dollar

Days rushed to its frontcourt with Pantaleon pulling up for a triple from the left key and hitting his target to tie the game, 100-all.

Bart Demapan quickly fouled Tumaquip to stop the clock and since Dollar Days was not yet in the penalty, KFC/Taco Bell was forced to make an inbound, instead of taking two shots from the foul line.

With five seconds left in the fourth quarter, Cadagat went for a shot from beyond the arc and missed. Larry Palero grabbed the offensive rebound, but muffed his shot against two Dollar Days defenders, too, sending the game in overtime.

In extension, KFC/Taco played without the fouled out Johnson, while Cadagat also sat to the bench in the 2:32 mark due to cramps, allowing Dollar Days to pull away.

Kae Bernardo made the first basket in overtime, while Abuel scored seven straight points on a three-point play, a triple, and a free throw. KFC/Taco Bell was held to two points on Cadagat's layup in the first 3:32 of the extension period.

A triple from Bon Tamayo sealed the doom for KFC/Taco Bell, as Dollar Days led by 10, 114-104, with 1:09 left in the game.

**Dollar Days** 119 – Abuel 34, Bernardo 28, De Vero 19, Tamayo 11, Demapan 10, Pantaleon 9, Siriban 4, Galvez 2.

**KFC/Taco Bell** 111 – Cadagat 39, Itaas 20, Tumaquip 16, Johnson 10, Lorio 8, Capalad 7, Itibus 3, Mendez 3, Palero 2, Concepcion 2, Norita 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 32-17, 55-39, 73-67, 100-100, 119-111 (OT).

## DRAGONS

From Page 28

seven games.

The Little Lions suffered back-to-back losses and are now at 4-3.

## Jets 9, Braves 5

The Jets streaked to its third straight win by halting the Braves' four-game winning run with a 9-5 decision also on Sunday.

The win was the Jets' sixth in seven outings while the Braves fell to 4-3.

## Little Falcons 16, Athletics 3

With plenty of time to makeup before the playoff round, the Tanapag Little Falcons snapped a six-game losing skid with a victory over Century A's, 16-3.

The Little Falcons are now 1-6, while the Athletics are 2-5.

## Ol'Aces 18, Enforcers 7

Last Saturday, Ol'Aces kept their record clean after seven matches with an easy victory over the slumping JPO Enforcers, 18-7.

After the Enforcers led the game 6-5 after two innings, Ol'Aces re-

stored their confidence by hitting three of their seven at bats and scoring four in the third, making three hits, three base on balls, and five runs in the fourth, and two hits, three base on balls, two stolen bases, and four runs in the fifth en route to the lopsided win.

It was the fifth straight defeat for the Enforcers (1-5).

## Hustlers 30, IT&E 1

UMDA Hustlers booked the most runs in a game this season and the most lopsided win in their 30-1 triumph over IT&E.

They needed only three innings to win via the mercy rule and the

Hustlers further improved their record to 6-1 while IT&E slipped to 1-6 in the standings.

## Survivors 7, Twins 5

The Survivors prevailed over the As Matuas Twins, 7-5, to bounce back from their previous defeat and are now 3-4.

The Twins dropped to a 1-5 win-loss card.

## Red Sox 15, Shell 2

The Red Sox posted their fourth consecutive victory by beating Shell, 15-2, to improve their record to 2-5.

Shell absorbed its fifth straight loss in seven matches.

knockout.

Another local bet, Hosea "Killa B" Ware, also prevailed over Japan's Hiraki Sakuma via arm bar submission in the first round.

In a Guam vs. Guam matchup, Kyle "Boom" Reyes defeated Kyle Aguon by split decision, while John Tuck beat Thomas "El Santo" Calvo via rear-naked chokehold in the first.

J.J. Ambros of the U.S. stamped his class against Japan's Hideto Kondo by rear-naked choke hold in the first.

had been organized the past weekends had been geared to build up endurance in preparation for the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon.

Johnson hopes that many Saipan residents would join the local XTERRA and Tagaman.

## PALAXI

From Page 28

Cup Open Grappling Championships last month.

Jesse won by unanimous decision in their three-round match and remained undefeated in four fights.

Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez, who accompanied the MMA fighters to Guam, said Rangamar was dominating his match against

Yasuhiro Motomuro but later succumbed to the Japanese.

"Unfortunately he (Rangamar) found himself in the receiving end of a Motomuro triangle and was forced to submit three minutes into the bout," he said.

Alvarez noted that Motomuro is currently the top contender in the 140-lb. class Shooto in Japan.

It was the fifth defeat in eight fights for Rangamar.

"Kudos to our island warriors who represented the CNMI. They were all winners just for

being great ambassadors for Saipan," Alvarez said.

In the main event, Japan's Hiroshi Masabuchi outsmarted Guam's Ryan "Biggs" Bigler via ground and pound in the first round.

Another Japanese, Tomonori Taniguchi, knocked out Alex "Most Hated" Castro in the first round.

Justin "The Shocker" Cruz avenged the loss by winning over Japan's Taiki Tsuchiya in the first round via technical

Church and then Braig.

"Our next event is a hike on the XTERRA Saipan Championship run course (starting at Anaks Resort and finishing at Sugar King Park). This will probably be next weekend," Johnson said.

He said the several races that

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

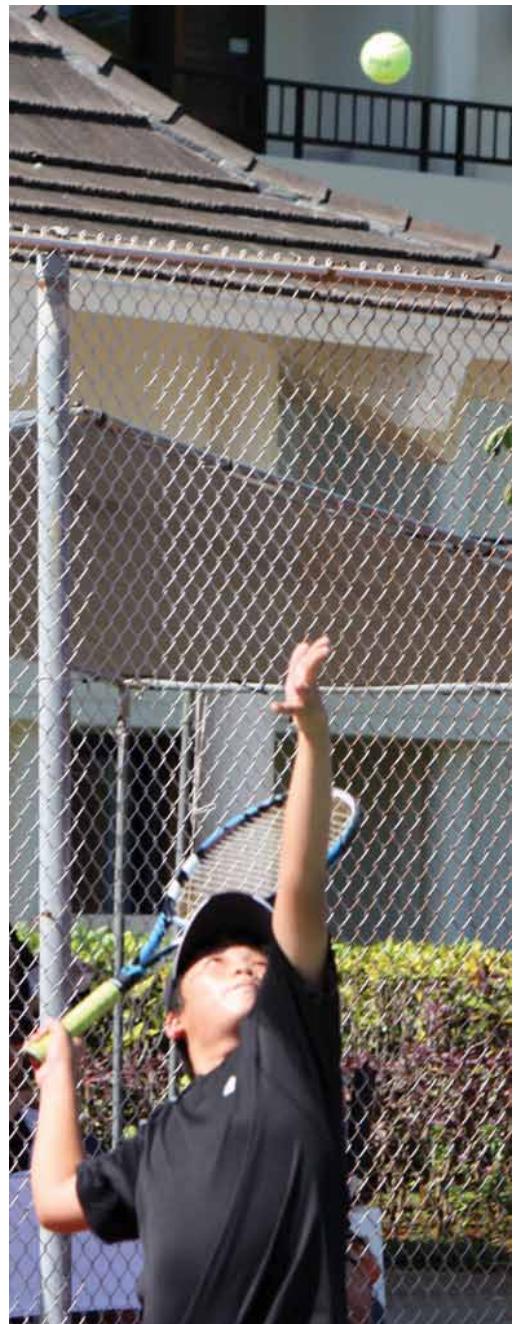
|              | W  | L  | Pct  | GB     |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| y-Boston     | 56 | 19 | .747 | -      |
| Philadelphia | 37 | 35 | .514 | 17 1/2 |
| New Jersey   | 30 | 44 | .405 | 25 1/2 |
| New York     | 29 | 45 | .392 | 26 1/2 |
| Toronto      | 28 | 45 | .384 | 27     |

### Pacific Division

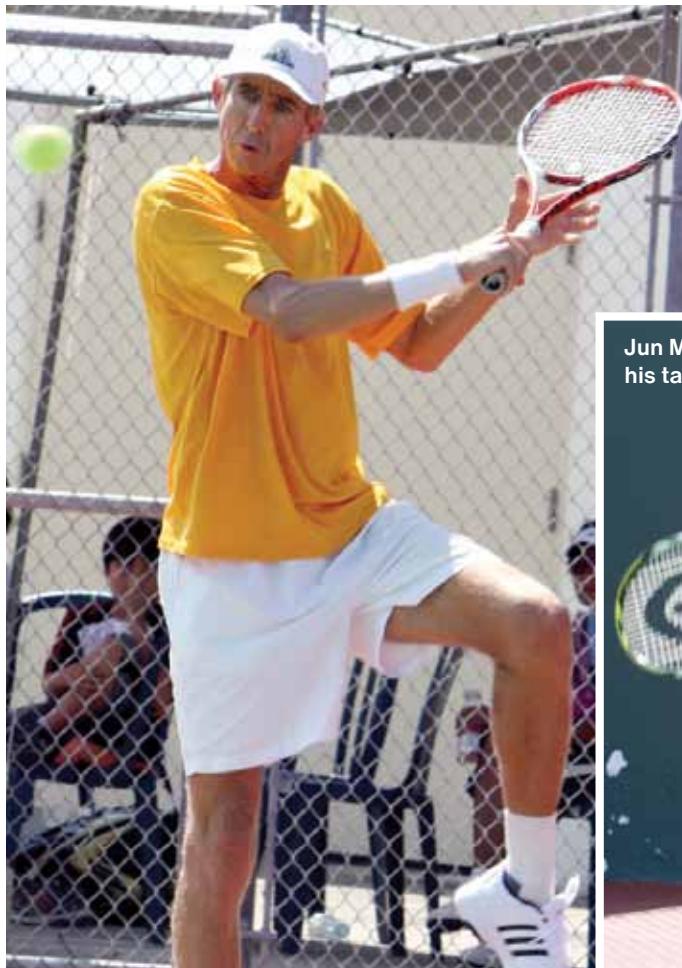
|              | W  | L  | Pct  | GB     |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| z-LA Lakers  | 58 | 15 | .795 | -      |
| Phoenix      | 40 | 34 | .541 | 18 1/2 |
| Golden State | 25 | 49 | .338 | 33 1/2 |
| LA Clippers  | 18 | 56 |      |        |

# 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships

Photos by  
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Chris Park serves during his first round match against Christian Miller.



Jeff Race goes for a backhand slice.



Jun Myong eyes his target.



Rafael Jones chases the ball down to the right baseline during his title game against Christian Miller in the boys' 14-and-under singles division of the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships Sunday at the PIC hard court.



Emily Jones goes for a volley.



Christian Miller takes a break during his title match against Rafael Jones.



Kirk Schuler goes for a backhand return during his title match against Ji Hoon Heo in the men's Open singles.



Tammy Ackerman returns to Emily Jones.



Ji Hoon Heo returns the ball to Kirk Schuler.



## CUC upsets Finance in women's softball

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. boosted its playoff bid with an upset victory over Finance, 17-13, last Monday night in the women's division of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## Dollar Days moves closer to title

Dollar Days' Bart Demapan drives against three KFC/Dollar Days defenders during Game 1 of their title series in the Navy Hill caging Tuesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Dollar Days escaped with a thrilling 119-111 overtime win over KFC/Taco Bell Tuesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court to move a win away from clinching the championship in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League.

Jun Pantaleon and Wowie Abuel bailed out Dollar Days in Game 1 of the best-of-three title se-

### RELATED NEWS

Phil Pan, Wild Boys win

PAGE 26



ries, canning crucial baskets. Pantaleon made a triple in the last seven seconds of the regulation to send the game in overtime, while Abuel fired seven points in overtime to save Dollar Days, which blew up a 20-point lead.

A jackrabbit start gave Dollar Days a 32-17 advantage in the first period and the lead ballooned

See DOLLAR DAYS on Page 26

## Dragons nip Little Lions, 8-7

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

The Dragons held off a last-ditch rally by the Little Lions to score an 8-7 win in the Major Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Jonathan Cabrera hit a three-run homerun to give his team an 8-4 lead in the bottom of the fifth.

But Cabrera, who was the Dragons' starting pitcher, allowed three consecutive runs by Catalina Dela Cruz, Cedric Ada, and Francisco Palacios in the sixth.

All three reached home plate via base on balls and the Lions moved to within a run of the Dragons' lead with one out.

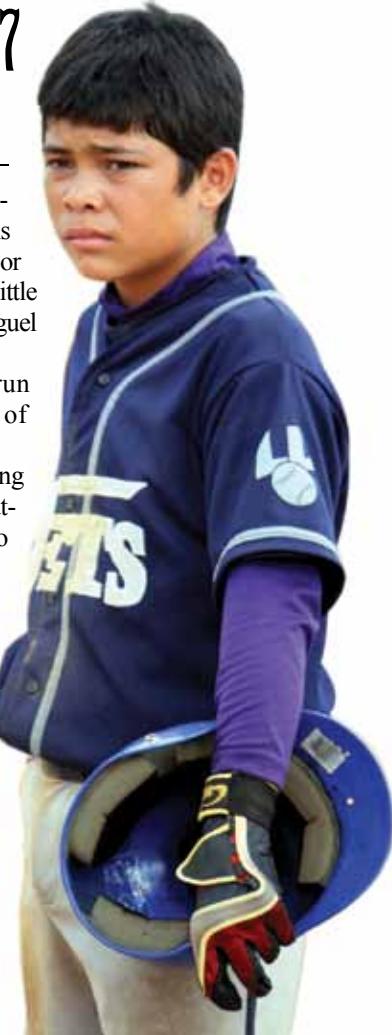
Cabrera took the second out on June Malite before he was relieved by Nathan Camacho.

Camacho gave up another walk to Joseph Taitano Jr. and the bases were loaded, but the former struck out Justin Santos for the victory and the Dragons posted their fifth win in

See DRAGONS on Page 26

Jose Lizama Jr. of the streaking Jets is one of the leading pitchers in the Major Division of the Saipan Little League.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



## Palaxi, El Peligro triumph in Pacific Xtreme Combat

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

**PXC** Two of the three mixed martial art fighters from Saipan won their bouts in Pacific Xtreme Combat 17: Fearless held last Saturday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Team Saipan was composed of Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, Fassi "Quikdraw" Jesse, and Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar.

Sablan and Jesse, who are from Trench Tech, defeated their fancied rivals. Rangamar of Marianas Elite, meanwhile, lost to a tougher opponent from Japan.

The prestigious international MMA competition drew fighters from Japan, Saipan, the United States, and Guam.

Shrugging off the hometown advantage by his local opponent, Sablan repulsed Guam's Robert "The Read Deal"

Wusstig, an 18-year-old fighter out of Underworld Xtreme who came into the match with an immaculate 3-0 record.

That record included a huge upset of then URCC lightweight champion Justin "The Shocker" Cruz in PXC 15.

But the more experienced Sablan won against Wusstig via rear-naked choke submission in the second round and the NMI bet improved his record to 15-4.

Sablan's stable-mate Jesse also dampened the home crowd's celebration by defeating one of Guam's top fighters in the 155-lb. division, Eric "Edog" Santos.

Santos is from Underworld Xtreme and won a gold medal in the Marianas

See PALAXI on Page 26

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, who has his arm raised by celebrity referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho in a previous MMA event, defeated Guam's Robert "The Read Deal" Wusstig in Pacific Xtreme Combat 17: Fearless last Saturday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

MARK RABAGO



## Daly cruises to victory in pre-XTERRA race

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Kieran Daly ruled last Saturday's Olympic-distance triathlon from Pau-pau Beach via Bird Island Lookout and back.

The race was one of several events leading up to the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon.

A total of 21 triathletes joined the event, according to event organizer Michael S. Johnson of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation.

Johnson said the turnout was okay considering that fewer athletes usually join as the distance gets longer.

Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers, the times of other finishers were not registered.

The only times Johnson were able to get are those of Daly's (two hours and 20 minutes), runner-up Mieko Carey's (two hours and 28 minutes), and third placer Lewie Tenorio's (two hours and 40 minutes).

Johnson said Butch Sublemente came in fourth, but did not carry any timer during the race.

The event consisted of two laps of 750 meters swim (1,500m), two laps of 20,000 meters bike (40,000m), and two laps of 5,000 meters run (10,000m).

See DALY on Page 26



## Calipari to leave Memphis for Kentucky

John Calipari agreed Tuesday to leave Memphis and the dominant program he built and take on the challenge—and riches—of returning Kentucky to college basketball glory.

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